



Lightning News for January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Barnhill does their Best! Better Every Single Time.

We are ending January's theme of "Endurance" and enter February's theme of "Relationships".

"The strength of our student relationships makes the difference in translating our passion for teaching into their passion for learning". – *Beth Morrow*

Last February the Barnhill community created [\*I Care Kits\*](#), and it was a huge success. We'd like to continue this again this year and we need your help. The kits will include personal items such as combs, toothbrushes, soaps, deodorants, mittens, socks etc. Each homeroom will be collecting the donated items in their classroom throughout the month of February. At the end of February, just before the March break – we will put these kits together with the donated items and deliver them to the local shelters in the Saint John area. We appreciate and thank you for your generous donations for this caring initiative throughout the month of February.

**February is Black History month.** A better understanding of Black History certainly helps students to understand their world today. Black History has shaped modern life in so many ways. Did you know that Charles Drew pioneered blood transfusions? That Lewis Latimer invented early air conditioning? Or that Lisa Gelobter, a tech whizz, helped develop GIFs? The students will learn more about Black History within all their classes. Exploring Black History through the lens of groundbreaking inventions, teaches kids more about the lives they lead today.

"When we're talking about diversity, it's not a box to check. It is a reality that should be deeply felt and held and valued by all of us." —*Ava DuVernay, filmmaker and culture-shifter*

Every Friday we have hot lunch available for our students. Pizza is \$2 a slice, and no longer sold on cashless schools. Students will bring their \$2 to school on Friday to purchase their pizza.

**Breakfast** – we do have some nut free, healthy, individually wrapped breakfast items and snacks available in the office to anyone who would like one.

**Calling all grade 6 students!** There is a poster contest available for you. This contest has been brought to you by Canadian Public Health Association. Create a poster about the awareness and prevention of infectious disease and climate change. Student's posters must clearly demonstrate the effect that climate change is having on climate sensitive infectious disease, such as Lyme disease or West Nile virus. Individual entries only ~ for details, visit [www.cpha.ca/contest](http://www.cpha.ca/contest) There are great prizes to be won!

**Mask Use at school.** There is zero tolerance for inappropriate mask use. All students and staff are required to wear their mask appropriately through the school day, unless eating and drinking. Students will be given a gentle reminder if their mask is not worn appropriately, if many reminders are given students will be sent home. We have been wearing a mask for over a year and a half of school, therefore many reminders should not be needed.

## On the Horizon:

**2021/2022 Yearbooks:** Mr. Savoie and Mrs. Muise are working with Harveys Studio in order to create a fabulous yearbook. The cost of the books will be \$18.00.

This is very important for our grade 8 students! Please start thinking of what you would like to have a write-up beside your picture regarding your middle years here at Barnhill ~ the words and your picture certainly create a wonderful memory.

**Science Fair:** The due date is Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. This year, due to COVID -19 restrictions, all students will be completing individual projects and will be presenting them in their individual class bubble. If we are able to loosen the restrictions to include a broader viewing, we will make this available to all students.

**Family Day:** Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> this will be a holiday for everyone.

**Pink Shirt Day:** Pink Shirt Day is Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The pink shirts will be on sale starting the first of February. This will be updated to Cashless schools, by the end of the week. Below are two links that you may be interested in, if you are looking to purchase a pink shirt.

<https://pinkshirtday.imagegroupinc.ca/en/cad>

[Shop | Indigenous Printing](#)

**High School Registration:** This message is for our grade 8 students and their families.

Students will bring home the high school registration form between Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you are reading the Lightning News, please email me – Liza Muise – to have your and your child's name put into a draw. Thank you for being invested.

*If you haven't already, please read the information sent out by Zoë Watson, ASDS Superintendent.*

## **Reminders- Safety Measures**

Students should have at least 2 clean masks with them every day. Masks are required to be worn at all times, including outside and on the bus. The only exception is when students are seated for eating and drinking, or at K-8 when classes are outside, not mixing with other classes. Families are asked to remind their child that masks must be worn properly, which means covering both the mouth and the nose. This has been an issue noted in the higher grade levels.

We are encouraging students to remain diligent about handwashing and sanitizing. Teachers will continue to ask students to clean and disinfect desks and materials at middle and high schools.

It is important that families monitor their children for [symptoms](#) daily. If one new or worsening symptom develops, a student is not permitted to attend school until they have a negative rapid test (POCT). If a student has a constant and recurring symptom, for instance seasonal allergies, they may continue to attend school after they have received a negative POCT.

If your child tests positive with a POCT or public health PCR test :

- Have your child [Isolate](#) immediately.
- [Notify](#) your **school principal** and all close contacts.
- [Report](#) your positive test to Public Health (if POCT rapid test was used).

We will post all school notifications of positive cases daily to our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) on the ASD-S website. On this site, you will also find important Public Health information on testing positive, reporting, and isolating.

### **Learning Expectations**

While we understand our students may have some anxiety returning to school, please note that teachers will no longer be providing at-home learning and, unless ill or isolating, students need to attend school in-person. Schools will not be providing materials and assignments to students who choose to stay home.

With the increase in individuals having to self-isolate with household members or testing positive themselves, we are anticipating an impact on our teaching and support staff. It is important that we keep our schools open with in-person classes. For this reason, we are securing additional supply staff and the District, along with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, are arranging for qualified staff currently in non-classroom roles, to cover for absent teaching staff.

While our goal is to keep schools open for in-person learning, staffing shortages due to COVID-19 is a possibility and could result in an Operational Day for a class, a grade, or a whole school. We will do our best to provide as much advanced notice of this as possible, however it is important that families have a plan for child-care in the event that in-person learning is temporarily interrupted.

Thank you, for taking the time to read this week's Lighting News, as it was lengthy.

Mrs. Liza Muise