



Banff Elementary School
325 Squirrel St
Box 748
Banff AB T1L 1K1
403-762-4465
bes.info@crps.ca

March 30, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As students leave on a well-deserved Spring Break, I want to inform you of some exciting changes that will benefit Banff Elementary School students next year.

Class Sizes

Based on our 2023-2024 projected enrolment and class composition, overall, BES will continue to achieve some of the lowest class sizes in the province. This is great news for both students and staff!

Lunchroom Supervision Fees

As part of the CRPS budgeting process for the 2023-2024 school year, the Board of Trustees has advised that it will **remove** the BES lunch supervision fee of \$140, beginning next year. The decision to remove this fee reflects the Alberta government's six percent increase in base funding to all school authorities for the upcoming school year, a revenue source the board would like to pass on to families.

Before School Care

The BES Before School Care program will continue to be offered for free, allowing families to drop their children off starting at 7:45 am.

Student Transportation

On March 14, the province announced that it would lower student walking distances to 1 km for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6, and 2 km for students in Grades 7 to 12. This legislative change will mean 45 additional students in Banff will now qualify for transportation services. Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) Transportation Department will be advising those families impacted by this change, encouraging them to sign up for student transportation services shortly.

Wrap-Around Services and Learner Supports

Due to the generous donation of the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation and an increase in provincial funding, BES students will have access to a comprehensive wrap-around service team, which includes learning support teachers, a success teacher, CRPS' Right from the Start team, an occupational therapist, speech and language pathologist, educational psychologist, divisional psychologist, and wellness and liaison workers. Our youngest learners will also benefit from our dedicated literacy and numeracy specialists, Nature Explorers instructor, and the addition of a new educational assistant.

Overall, the picture of our 2023-2024 school year is bright! Given the success we've achieved this past year in helping our learners overcome the literacy and numeracy challenges brought on by the pandemic, BES students will be sure to soar with the additional supports being provided.

I wish all BES families a happy, safe and fun-filled Spring Break!

Sincerely,

Craig Kestle
Principal, Banff Elementary School