



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

**2023-2024 Back to School Information**  
**First Day of School Monday August 28, 2023**

August 25, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new and exciting 2023-2024 school year at Banff Elementary School! Our administration team of Ms. Valerie Chisholm (Assistant Principal) and Mr. Craig Kestle (Principal) are thrilled to be leading teaching and learning in the breathtaking and historic town of Banff in Banff National Park.



Ms. Chisholm brings over sixteen years of diverse teaching experience across Canadian and International schools working in mainstream, English language learning, and inclusive education settings. She was a classroom teacher for 11 years in Nova Scotia, Abu Dhabi and Calgary. She joined CRPS in 2018 and has been a Learning Support Teacher for the past 5 years at LGMS, Exshaw and Elizabeth Rummel School. BES welcomes Ms. Chisholm!

The beginning of the school year always marks a time of promise and possibility, and we are so excited for the upcoming school year! With our dedicated staff and a supportive community, we will continue to nurture a culture of excellence, while attending to the needs of the whole child in a safe and caring environment. Last year, with the support of staff, families and the community we succeeded in bringing the 'joy' back to learning as we have all known and experienced it before the interruption from the pandemic. This year we will continue to focus on sustaining and building upon this 'joy' in learning and furthering BES as the heart of the community!

As a community we continue to rebound from the emotional, social and economic impacts from the pandemic. The cost of living in our community is high and therefore, BES continues to experience a fluctuating overall student population. In general, schools receive funding based on total enrollment numbers to staff their teaching team. We continue to experience increased interest from families looking to move or who have settled in Banff over the summer to enroll their child at our amazing school. Because of this situation, our total enrollment numbers continue to fluctuate and therefore we may have to make some further staffing and/or class configuration changes after the school year begins on Monday. We appreciate your understanding and support in this matter.

Students who attended Banff Elementary School during the 2022-2023 school year do not need to re-register. **To help us better understand our total enrollment for the year, we would appreciate it if you would contact the school by email [bes.info@crps.ca](mailto:bes.info@crps.ca) to report any absences for the first week of school or to advise if your child will not be attending BES this school year. You can also leave us a message on our Attendance Line: 403-762-4465 x1.**

### **Welcoming New Staff Members to BES**

You will recognize many familiar faces during pick-ups and drop-offs and will also have the pleasure of meeting new staff. For a full staff list please [click here](#).

#### **Please welcome:**

Natalie Major - Learning Support Teacher

Erica Roth - Grade 2

Melissa Grant - Grade 2

Courtney Reinhart - Grade 8

Jacqueline Robertson - French as a Second Language

Nicole Kowalewski - Music

Deanne Arada - School and Family Wellness Worker

### **Classroom Assignments and First Day Back**

#### **Grades 1 - 8**

We look forward to seeing students on **Monday August 28, 2023 (arriving 8:15 - 8:30 am)**. Teachers will meet students on the Elk field. There will be staff available to support students and families to find their teacher. Please log in to your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account after 4:00 pm on **August 25, 2023** to see the name of your child's teacher (under the My Schedule tab). All staff have put forth significant effort into building balanced classrooms and we ask that you trust our professional judgment in this matter.

#### **Kindergarten**

Please refer to the emails you have received with specific information regarding gradual entry dates for Kindergarten students. We look forward to meeting our newest Bear Cubs during their gradual entry week!

#### **BES Website**

Our school website at <https://bes.crps.ca/> is a great resource for information! Please access the website to find the 2023-2024 learning calendars (half-day Fridays and school closures), school supply lists, PowerSchool Parent Portal quick link, weekly E-News, School Council updates, volunteer opportunities and so much more. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

### School Hours and Lunch

Students can access their classrooms starting at 8:15 am, with the first bell ringing at 8:25 am and the second bell at 8:30 am, when classes begin. Students arriving after 8:30 am must check in at the office. Morning recess is from 10:30-10:45 am. Lunch begins at 12:05 pm, when K-6 students eat lunch in their classrooms and then go outside until the bell rings at 12:55 pm. **BES is a nut-free school.** Grades 7 & 8 students may leave school grounds for lunch with parent permission, signed digitally each year as part of the Annual Demographic Form which will be sent out on Tuesday August 29, 2023. **We ask that Grades 7 & 8 students bring a lunch and remain on school grounds for lunch until Wednesday August 30** to allow time for parents to fill out the form online. School is dismissed at 3:02 pm (12:05 on half-day Fridays).

### Parking and Drop Off Zones

If you drive your child(ren) to school, please [click here](#) to take a close look at the map regarding the recommended traffic flow and drop-off/pick-up **Kiss & Go** locations. Squirrel St between Moose St and Elk St is **closed to all traffic** except buses from 8:15-8:30 am and 3:00-3:15 pm. Kiss & Go zones are designed to safely pick up and drop off students. There are two Kiss & Go zones; Elk Street and Big Horn Street. Please use these as intended; kiss your child good-bye and move along! Drivers, please do not leave your vehicle parked or idling in this area for any amount of time. Please also be respectful of the handicap zones.

### Bus Safety: Morning Drop Off and Afternoon Pick Up



Across Canada it is the law that vehicles **must not pass** a School Bus when the **Red Lights** on the bus are flashing and the **Stop Sign** is visible to drivers. BES needs all families who drop or pick up their child(ren) to follow this law to ensure the safety of students coming and going from school each day. Bylaw and RCMP will be regularly supporting the school to enforce this law to ensure safety. Administration is outside and active every day in the morning and afternoon to work with families, community members and visitors to adhere to this law. Please do your part to ensure the safety of our students - it is everyone's responsibility!

### **School Bus Services**

Kindergarten through Grade 8 students may use the bus if they live close to a current CRPS school bus stop. You must register for the bus and get a bus pass if you have not been on the bus before. Passes will automatically be mailed out to past school bus passengers. Please visit [crps.ca](http://crps.ca) for more information.

### **School Supplies**

A list of [required supplies](#) for each grade level is available on our [website](#). Please note that if you pre-ordered school supplies through Bow Valley Basics they will be distributed by teachers on the first day. There are a few additional items that your child will require at school which are not included in the pre-ordered packages. These additional items are listed at the bottom of the school supply list. **Please send all school supplies on the first day of school.**

### **Away for the Day**

Please review the BES [Away for Day](#) policy for details on student cell phone/devices use at school.

### **Before School Care**

Before School Care is being offered at no cost to families in need of childcare before school to enable parents to get to work on time. Before School Care will commence Tuesday, August 29 and registration is required each year. It is available between 7:45 - 8:15 am. Please [click here](#) to register your child. Students who arrive at 8:15 do not need to register for the Before School Care Program.

### **Town of Banff Out of School Club (OSC)**

The Town of Banff provides out of school care for after school, PD Fridays and school closures. For program details, please visit [www.banff.ca/kids](http://www.banff.ca/kids) or call 403-762-1251.

### **School 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. Incidental fees will be added to your Parent Portal account if required.

### **Important Dates**

September 4	Labour Day - School Closed
September 14	Open House 3:30-4:30
September 14	Photo Day
September 20	First School Council Meeting 3:30 to 4:30
September 22	Terry Fox Run - morning, more info to come
September 22	12:05 pm dismissal for Gr 1 - 8 - School Closed in the afternoon
September 29	Orange Shirt Day - please wear orange
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

BES information will be shared in our **weekly E-NEWS** - watch your emails or visit our [website](#). Look for and click the link to the 'Principal's Podcast' and listen to informative and important information about events, student learning and other information. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Regards,

Craig Kestle - Principal

Valerie Chisholm - Assistant Principal