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2024-2025 Back to School Information
First Day of School - Monday August 26, 2024

August 23, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new and exciting 2024-2025 school year at Banff Elementary School! Our administration team, Ms. Valerie Chisholm (Assistant Principal) and Mr. Jason Billings (Principal), is thrilled to be leading, teaching, and learning in the breathtaking and historic town of Banff in Banff National Park.



Ms. Chisholm brings over 16 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 was a learning support teacher for 5 years at Lawrence Grassi Middle School, Exshaw School, and Elizabeth Rummel School. Ms. Chisholm joined us at BES last year and will continue as our assistant principal and learning support teacher.

Mr. Billings is beginning his 26th year working in schools this year. He has spent the last 15 years in administration and has been a principal for 10 years. He has worked with Rocky View School Division, Peel District School Board, Seoul International School, and the Calgary Board of Education. Mr. Billings is thrilled to be joining CRPS and to have the opportunity to work as the principal of Banff Elementary School.



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. Wellness is at the heart of our work and we will strive to create inclusive environments where all students feel valued, respected and included. Learning will be individualized, responsive to student needs and engaging. All students will work hard to improve their literacy and numeracy skills across all subject areas. We will also connect with Indigenous Elders

and Knowledge Keepers to continue our reconciliation work and to build our knowledge and understanding of Indigenous perspectives.

We are so fortunate to live and work in beautiful Banff! This is not something that we take for granted. We know that many families have made significant sacrifices to be here. As a school, we want to connect and work closely with all families. Our doors are open to you and we encourage you to reach out at any time if you have any questions or concerns. Our partnership is paramount in your child's success, and we are committed to learning and working alongside you on your child's journey at Banff Elementary School.

Students who attended Banff Elementary School during the 2023-2024 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 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.**

Please note that fluctuations in enrollment may result in a reorganization of our classes at the beginning of the school year. We work hard to prevent this, but at times this is unavoidable.

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:

Elissa Sunderland (returning to BES) - Grade 8

Ian Higginbottom - Grade 8

Emily Nicholson - School and Family Wellness Worker

Classroom Assignments and First Day Back

Grades 1 - 8

We look forward to seeing students on **Monday August 26, 2024 (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 August 23, 2024 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 2024-2025 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.

Annual Demographic Online Form

Each school year, parents are required to complete the online Annual Demographic form. You will be receiving an email from CRPS on August 27 with instructions on how to complete one form for each child. This form includes 2024-2025 permission for walking field trips, which start immediately, FOIP Permissions, along with permission for grades 7 & 8 students only to leave the school grounds at lunch.

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 August 27, 2024. **We ask that Grades 7 & 8 students bring a lunch and remain on school grounds for lunch until Thursday August 29** to allow time for parents to fill out the form online and the office to process these forms. School is dismissed at 3:02 pm (12:05 on half-day Fridays).

Safety While Traveling To and From School



Safety at drop-off and pick-up times is everyone's responsibility. Our buses use flashing red lights with the extended stop sign when loading and unloading students. 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. If you drive your child(ren) to school, please take a close look at this [map](#) regarding the recommended traffic flow and

the Big Horn Street drop-off/pick-up Kiss & Go location. Please use the Kiss & Go zone 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. If you wish to walk your child to their school entrance, ensure to park your vehicle in a designated parking spot (such as the train station lot). Please also be respectful of handicap zones. We remind all families, students and parents to wear their helmets when biking, scootering and skateboarding and to follow the rules of the road and sidewalks when traveling to and from school. Bylaw and RCMP will be regularly supporting the school, enforcing the 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 keep our students safe. Please do your part to ensure the safety of our students.

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 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 the 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 September 3 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 or call 403-762-1251.

School Fees

For the third year, the CRPS board has decided not to charge lunchroom supervision fees for the 2024-2025 school year, reflecting our division's commitment to easing family financial pressures. Complimentary course fees (Grade 7 & 8) and incidental fees will be added to your Parent Portal account as required.

Important Dates

August 26	First Day of School (Kindergarten please refer to the Gradual Entry plan)
September 2	Labour Day - School Closed
September 12	Open House 3:15-4:30 pm
September 12	Photo Day (Individual & Class Photos)
September 18	First School Council Meeting 3:30 pm at BES
September 20	Terry Fox School Run
September 20	Staff PD - 12:05 pm Dismissal for Grades 1 - 8 (no Kindergarten classes)
September 27	Orange Shirt Day - please wear orange
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - School Closed
October 4	Staff PD - 12:05 pm Dismissal for Grades 1 - 8 (no Kindergarten classes)

BES information will be shared in our **weekly E-NEWS** Watch your emails for informative and important information about events and student learning. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Regards,

Jason Billings - Principal

Valerie Chisholm - Assistant Principal