



Gator Gazette

September 2024

Principal's Message

Hello BG Families! It is hard to believe that our first month of school is already coming to an end. While it has been a whirlwind of excitement, we are so proud of our students. Our students have demonstrated such kindness and compassion for one another. I see as I walk the halls how they smile and always say hello and make one another feel welcome. I appreciate the talents of our Announcement Team who lead our mornings with energy and their voice. Our student Zeana finishes each Friday with our joke of the week that we look forward to hearing (THANK YOU Zeana).

While many are still mourning the loss of having consistent access to electronic devices like cell phones, we appreciate how many continue to support the direction to minimize distractions in the classroom. The month of October brings many exciting opportunities for our students as well. Please take a moment to read about our updates.

Sincerely,

Ms. S. Beatrice



Upcoming Dates October

- October 1: Junior Swim Team Practice, 3pm
- October 4: Photo Day!
- October 8th: Junior Swim Team Practice, 3pm
- October 11th:
 - School Bus Safety Presentation
 - GaTor Spirit Day
- October 14th: Thanksgiving Day! No School
- October 15th:
 - Junior Swim Team Practice, 3pm
 - Grade 6, 7, 8 Out for Lunch Begins
- October 17th: IEPs sent home
- October 18th: Gator Spirit Day
- October 22nd:
 - Junior Swim Team Practice, 3pm
- October 25th: Gator Spirit Day
- November 1st: PA Day – No School

Indigenous Well-Being: Reconciling our roles as treaty partners

Since 2018, the Board has worked with the local Indigenous community to maintain the integrity of Indigenous languages, knowledge systems, worldviews, and ways of knowing, being and doing. At Billy Green we recognize the importance of advancing Restorative Indigenous Educational Wellness, while reconciling our roles as Indigenous Peoples and/or treaty partners. For this reason, each month staff and students will celebrate indigenous ways of knowing and being. During the month of September, we focused on understanding the importance of community and connection through the Silver Covenant Chain. This chain is an extension of the Two Row Wampum, an agreement that symbolizes friendship and relational accountability. It emphasizes how we are all connected by are our arms. All students and staff created our own chain. On one side of this chain, we wrote about how we would commit to upholding the values of our school: Compassion, Trust, Dignity and Joy. This chain will be placed in our glass case, to remind us how we all have a role to play in maintaining the well-being and community of Billy Green.

Building Community through JOY

Gator Gurus Go Summer Wild

Our students voiced and we heard it! Last year students shared with us in a student voice survey that they would like to know the adults in the building as “everyday people”. They wondered what we liked and did outside of our school roles. In response, we flooded our glass case with pictures of staff in the summer. Each month we will share a bit of us for students to “see”. Stay tuned for October where we will have our Guess Who board showcasing staff at their own Picture Day photos.

Joy through Clubs and more!

We recognize the importance of extracurriculars! While we are a small staff (16 teachers versus 381 students), our student voice survey asked us to consider offering not just sports but also other “things”. Staff heard them! In addition to our sports teams, we are offering sewing club, board game club, Healthy Action Team and Positive Well-being team! PLUS we have our lunch monitors, reading buddies and more! Stay tuned for updates from these amazing opportunities!



Gator Gazette

September 2024 Continued

No Personal Devices

Thank you to our families and students for supporting the Ministry's direction to eliminate distractions in classroom. It is important that we work as a community to support our students in avoiding cell phone use during the school day. A reminder that cell phones are to be out of sight for the entire school day unless permission to use them for instructional purposes is given by the classroom educator. If you need to get a message to your child throughout the day, please direct your message to the main office who will then connect you with your child. Let's continue to work together to support engagement and well-being at Billy Green.

Use of Parking Lot: Before and After School

We have a very small parking lot and our priority is keeping our students safe as they enter into the playground in the morning. Thank you to our families for supporting us in limiting traffic flow in the parking lot by not using this during morning and afterschool entry, and helping us to prioritize our busses as well. A reminder to please abide by street signs and be respectful to our community members. Kindly do not park on Paramount where it indicates no stopping or parking, and park on streets without blocking private driveways. Most of our school population lives in areas that are easily walkable, please consider using this mode in the morning. Thank you for your cooperation.

Grade 6, 7 and 8; Going out for lunch forms

Students in grade 6, 7 and 8 have been provided with permission forms to begin leaving the school for lunch during nutrition break 2 (1240-120). Students are to return their form no later than Monday October 7. They will then be permitted to leave for lunch beginning October 15th. Only students who return their signed form will be permitted to leave for lunch. A reminder to our students that when leaving for lunch they continue to be students of Billy Green. This means that it is important to model the values of respect and kindness as you interact with our community.

School Council Update

Thank you to our families who attended our School Council Elections and first meeting on Tuesday September 24th.

A warm welcome to our executive members:

Chair: Katrina Hempstead

Treasurer: Anu Shrindar

Secretary: Beatrice Tierado

Members at Large: Christine Baxter, Natasha Benson, Dikko Jervis, Sara Carew, Jenny Ricottone, Dan Harris, Sabrina Banfo, Dejana Lucic, Deanne Rutherford, Jenine Salim, Omobolanle Giwa.

Our next **School Council Meeting** is **November 5th** at 630pm in the school library – All are welcome

Equity and Human Rights Corner

Billy Green is committed to the principles of equity in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Human Rights Code, the Education Act and Ministry of Education PPM119. We understand that if students do not feel safe, supported and accepted – they will not feel engaged and their well-being will suffer. Our emphasis at Billy Green is understanding ourselves for the excellence that we each bring. While our beliefs, cultures and experiences may differ, we are open to understanding and learning without judgement. We understand that we have a collective responsibility and obligation to stop, address and support when acts of bias, hates or prejudice occur. This month our students will be focused on how to address these acts through the STOP method: Say Something, Tell what happened, Offer to help, Pair. Please take time to learn alongside your child and have them share the stop method with you.



School Council Chair Message:

Hello! My name is Katrina Hempstead and I have the privilege and honour of serving as the School Council Chair this year! I have been serving on council the last 2 years, and this will be my second year as Chair. It is my joy to be able to help support the amazing teachers and staff here at Billy Green as they pour and invest into our children.

I am also excited to share that we will be having our first fundraiser coming out at the end of October! After a great success 2 years ago, we will once again be running a Krispy Kreme fundraiser! Our hope with this fundraiser will be to raise funds to go towards purchasing technology to support our students' learning. More information will be coming to you near the end of October. Thank you for supporting our school!

Spirit Wear: Friday Gator Day

We are excited to celebrate our Gator pride with Friday Gator Days. On this day students are invited to show their Gator pride through spirit wear or the colours of Green, White, Gold. Spirit Wear can be purchased through School Cash Online.

