

# Bagshaw December 2020 Newsletter

## *From the Principal's Desk:*

*At this time, I can see the glass as half empty or half full; I choose to see the glass as half full. There are many things that I am thankful for today. I am grateful for this community and how well we have done as a school community through these first three months of school.*

*We have really appreciated the hard work and dedication of our Bagshaw staff throughout the start of this school year. Our staff has really worked with a purpose to provide both academic and social/emotional supports for all of our students. I am often amazed by the dedication, skill and care that the Bagshaw staff demonstrate daily. We are all truly lucky to be a part of such a wonderful and caring learning environment! I would also like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" for all the care, kindness and support our Bagshaw families give to their children and for your understanding regarding the changes implemented this year to make learning in school safer for all. We know 2020 was a challenging year with teaching and learning in a pandemic! Bagshaw continues to stay committed to ensuring a safe, inclusive and healthy environment. Thank you for continuing to screen your children daily, following Public Health protocols and for staying home when ill. May this holiday break provide our Bagshaw community with many moments of peace and the time to reflect and find joy in the things that we may have lost sight of over the last year. The majority of 2020 has been a difficult year, I hope that you will be able to find warmth in memories from the past. Embrace your current blessings and find hope for a better and healthier 2021.*

*We look forward to an exciting New Year and wish you all the best in 2021! Enjoy your holidays and Stay Safe!*

## Upcoming Dates

Dec 11	Pajama Day
Dec 18	Red/Green day and Holiday Sweater
Dec 11-18	Movie Afternoon & Holiday Individual Class Dance TBD
Dec 18	Last Day of School
Jan. 4	1st day back to School



## Parent –teacher Communication

It was great to have so many parents participate virtually or by telephone to discuss their child's progress during interviews. Parent-teacher communication is an important part of student success. Thank you for continuing to support home and school communication. If you did not have a chance to meet your child's teacher, please contact them to set up a meeting. Remember it is always important to stay in touch with your child's teacher. This partnership allows our children to see that we are all invested in their learning.

## LATES

We currently have about a number of kids arriving late each school day.

With our current protocols, this is problematic as the locked front entrance provides the only way into the school. Please try to ensure your child has arrived at school by 8:50 am. Thanks for your support.



## Winter Recess & Weather

With the winter weather upon us, this is just a reminder that all students are expected to go outside for recess and students need to bring the necessary clothing to make recess enjoyable (i.e. winter coats, snow pants, hats, mittens and winter boots). Students must go outside for physical activity and health benefits. Also, we do not have supervisors inside during recess breaks. Time outside is important; after students come in from outside, they are able to re-focus faster and concentrate better. Recess allows them time to get some fresh air, unmask and time to run around. In fact, there are numerous scientific studies that have found that being outdoors for 20 minutes or more gives children a mental edge, not just a physical one. If the weather is extremely cold (-25 Celsius or colder), we modify time outside or students are kept indoors.

## Covid –19 Protocols

At Bagshaw, we take our responsibility for stopping the transmission of Covid-19 very seriously. As Ontario is now in the Red Zone, we ask support from families to continue to:

1. Significantly limit visits to the school. Only come to the school when absolutely necessary.
2. As everyone gets more comfortable with the new “normal” school routines we are noticing that a number of our students are forgetting to bring/losing their masks on a daily basis. Please encourage your child to make sure they have a mask with them when they leave for school in the morning and when not being worn to keep them in a safe place. Keeping an extra mask in your child's book bag is also helpful for those who misplace their masks or get them dirty.
3. Encourage your child to follow all Public Health protocols at school, including always staying 2 meters from others while outside.
4. Promptly pick up your sick child when asked by school to do so.
5. The expectation is that parents/guardians will please wear a mask when dropping off or picking up a child on Board property.

## Health & Safety Drills

**Fire Drills and Other Health and Safety Drills:**  
We are required to have different drills throughout the year so that students become aware of emergency procedures. This includes Fire Drills, Shelter In Place, Bomb Threat, Lockdown, and Hold and Secure. We have concluded our fall practices and the next drills will take place in the spring.

