

Sept 7th

Dear Shatford families,

The first week back was a huge success. It was so great to see our students and families. We welcome all our new families and the ones returning. The students seem excited to get back into school routines. September is an exciting month!

Each month in our School Newsletters and calendars, I try to highlight the key events happening each month at Shatford. All communication is usually electronic but at times we need to send home hardcopies of things. If you are talking to other parents please let them know they should have received a school newsletter. I just want to ensure that all our contacts are working.

Early next week, you will be receiving a paper copy of your child(ren) school registration form, permission to use technology at the school and permission form for Rails to Trails. Please read everything carefully especially registration forms. It is extra important that all phone numbers are correct as well as emails. The early dismissal procedures for your child in case of an early shutdown (snowstorm etc.) is extremely important to fill out. This information is how we communicate in case of emergency or school closure. Since all correspondence is electronic it is imperative that you keep us up to date with phone number changes and/or email addresses. Please cc our new admin assistant tanya.pelley@hrce.ca if any changes need to be updated.

Looking forward to chatting with everyone at the bbque/Curriculum night. More details to follow. If ever you have questions/concerns please contact me by phone or email and I will get back to you in a timely manner.

See you all soon,

Sarah Wile
Principal
Shatford Memorial
Swile@hrce.ca
902-857-4200

Parking lot

As many of you know in the morning, our parking lot is very busy with children, buses and walkers. Unfortunately, our parking lot only has enough parking spaces for our staff. Please refrain from driving in our lot between 7:50-8:15 to keep our students safe. Thank you!

Water Bottle/ Extra Change of Clothes

All students should have a non-breakable water container which comes back and forth from home to school. Please have it filled with water before coming to school. An extra change of clothes is important for all our students as we play at Shatford. We play even in the rain especially in the first couple months of school.

Safe Arrival

Everyday teacher/administrators take attendance of students. It is very important to use the safe arrival electronic system to let us know that your child will be absent on any given day **before 8:35**. At 8:45 an electronic system will call you to let you know your child has not come to school. **Please read how to mark child absent instructions attached on separate document.** Some parents like the phone number option and some parents like the phone app. Either way it helps our staff ensure students are safe and where they are suppose to be. Thank you in advance!

Stand Up Against Bullying Day – Thursday, September 14

Government and education partners recognize the second Thursday in September as *Stand Up Against Bullying Day*. Your participation in acknowledging *Stand Up Against Bullying Day* supports the importance of building healthy, safe and positive environments. The inspiration for the day came from the actions of Central Kings Rural High School Grade 12 students Travis Price and David Shepherd who rallied behind a new student to the school who was being bullied simply for wearing pink. **Please wear pink if at all possible on Sept 14h.**



Clothes and indoor sneakers:

Each day please ensure your child has a change of clothes in their school bag. Even the older students need them as they occasionally fall and get wet etc. This saves us from having to call home and interrupt

your day. Each child needs a pair of indoor sneakers. You can choose whether they stay at school or go home. Parents have their preferences.

Breakfast Grab and Go Program

We have a grab and go breakfast snack on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The items are usually fruit, dry cereal, cheese strings and yogurt tubes. It is offered to all students. This will begin towards the end of the month.

Birthday Invitations

We would ask you **to not send** in party invitations to pass out at school. It causes teachers and some students distress as some children get left out etc. Thank you!

Lockdown drill/ Hold and Secure/Firedrills

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Shatford Memorial Elementary School and the HRCE. We have several measures in place as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

In September we will be practicing many safety drills with our students. Fire drills are practiced frequently throughout the year. Two of the other procedures our school will be practicing are a Lockdown Drill and a Hold and Secure Drill. During a Lockdown Drill, classroom doors are secured; the students remain inside the room and are to remain quiet until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. During a Hold and Secure Drill, classroom doors are secured and teachers can continue to teach, however no one is to enter or leave the classroom unless the "all clear" is given. In either instance, all exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. During a drill, a red sign is put up on our main doors. Please be patient if you arrive looking to pick up or drop off. We can not usually answer the door during the drill.

We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a Fire Drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a Lockdown Drill and a Hold and Secure Drill. These drills are treated with the same level of importance as our Fire Drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running our drills. The first fire drill practice will take place the week of Sept 10. Our Lockdown Drill will take place the week of September 18th and our Hold and Secure Drill will take place the week of September 25th. We will also take time after the drills to remind students that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills.

Please contact me if you have any questions about Lockdown Drills and/or Hold and Secure Drills.

Truth and Reconciliation Day-

We will be honoring this day on Sept 29 by wearing orange tshirts. October 2nd is a no school day to honour this day.

Home and School Parent Meeting

Our first meeting of our Home and school Parent group is scheduled for September 12 at 6:30pm at the school. We welcome all our parents that are interested in attending. This is a volunteer based group who assists with special events, and fundraisers for the students and school. Please get involved.

Curriculum Night-21st/ Barbeque 5:30-7:00

With the help of our Home and School parent group we are combining curriculum night with a barbeque. Teachers will be attending so you can meet them and discuss curriculum. Please try to keep this night open. More details will follow next week. Should be a great night.

Terry Fox Walk and Run

September 22nd the students will honour Terry Fox by collecting donations and participating a school walk/run. More details to follow. Parents can attend if they have their criminal record checks and child abuse registry completed.

School pictures

Individual and classroom photographs will be on Sept 28th. Please try to avoid any planned absences on this day. Thank you.

Staffing

We are so fortunate to have many of our staff returning. We do have some staff changes. Our website – under staff tab- has the most up to date information

School Advisory Councils

School advisory councils (SACs) are one way to bring together school stakeholders and individuals from local communities who share an interest in promoting student success in their school. SACs are volunteer organizations that receive their authority from the Education Act (2018). The establishment of SACs and their roles and responsibilities are set out in the Education Act and the Ministerial Education Act Regulations. SACs are an integral part of Nova Scotia's public schools. They provide parents/guardians, school staff, community members, and, when appropriate, students, with a voice to influence decisions that impact student learning. As advisory bodies, SACs bring partners together to provide principals and RCEs with advice that reflects the best interests of students from the point of

view of the school community. SACs are active participants in the school improvement planning process, also known as the Student Success Planning process. The provincial school improvement planning process ensures SACs have a role in the ongoing efforts of schools to improve student achievement and well-being. The school improvement plan is developed under the leadership of the principal to set goals and strategies to improve student achievement and well-being. The process begins by reviewing available evidence to determine how the students are doing and where improvements are needed. SACs work in collaboration with principals and participate in efforts to improve student achievement and well-being by regularly receiving information on the school improvement plan and monitoring progress. SACs determine spending priorities for the provincial funds allocated to support their mandate, including student achievement, according to the terms of their SAC Agreement.

At Shatford, this year we have some openings for a parent member to join this team. Please let me know if you are interested in joining this committee. Most meetings are virtual and take an hour. The SAC meets only 6 times a year. If you are interested in joining this committee or want to learn more please reach out.

Hold the date::: October 26th- more details to follow.