

# Mount Benson Elementary School

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Principal: Mr. Gary Dodd

Secretary: Mrs. Jill Williamson



# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE # 1

September 26, 2007

## Principal's Comments

Dear Parents,  
Welcome back to those returning to Mount Benson and a special welcome to those families new to our school community.

Beginnings are exciting. Mixed with this excitement is some anxiety and nervousness at the new or untried. Parents and teachers share the same goal of giving our children the opportunities to learn and to enhance their capacity to learn. We want to do this in a caring, safe environment, where children feel free to take the risks involved in all learning. We want all students to experience success. When your child took their first faltering steps, you were there to provide help up and to encourage. In this safe environment your child was willing to risk trying again and again, even though they might fall. Your children soon experienced success and were able to learn to walk unaided. You, as your child's first teacher provided the encouragement and safety needed for this success. We want children to continue to be risk takers at school as they try to learn new things and new ways of doing things and interacting with others. Parents continue as their children's first and most important teacher. We build on what you have begun and what you as parents, continue to provide in the way of nurturing and instruction for your children. It is important that we maintain a partnership with home and school to continue to provide the kind of nurturing space needed for children to grow. Educators and parents need each other in order to establish and develop learning classrooms and schools. Mount Benson Elementary School is fortunate in having a parent community that has exhibited such positive involvement in the school. We are encouraged by the support we receive from this partnership and look forward to a great year of making Mount Benson the best it can be.

## A Warm Mount Benson Welcome

A warm Mount Benson welcome to professional and support staff new to our school community. Mr. Sullivan in grade 7, Mr. Snowden in grade 5, Ms. Welsh in Kindergarten/grade 1, Mrs. Letourneau Student Support teacher, Ms. Williams teacher/librarian, and Mr. Gardner, school counsellor. We are excited to have these dedicated professionals joining our team and are confident that they will provide excellent service to our students. In addition to these teachers we welcome Mr. Alvaro an education assistant new to our school, who also brings caring experience to our school.

## Dates to Remember

Thursday, Sept 27, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Open House  
Friday, Sept 28 – Hot lunch – pizza  
Friday, Sept 28 – Terry Fox Run  
Monday, October 8 – Thanksgiving Day – no school for students  
Monday October 15 – Thursday October 18 – parent/teacher interviews  
Tuesday, October 16 – School Photos – 8:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
Friday, October 19 – Pro D Day – no school for students

## Classroom/Teacher Assignments

### Staffing and School Organization

Mount Benson has once again experienced some turnover in staff this year. We are fortunate to have put together an experienced professional and support staff. Over the next months you will have the opportunity to meet and get to know these recent arrivals to Mount Benson and experience first hand their competence, caring and commitment to our school and to your children.

### Teaching staff:

Mr. Dodd, principal  
Mr. Sullivan, teacher Division 8  
Mr. Kirby, teacher Division 7  
Mr. Snowden, teacher Division 6  
Ms. Christensen, teacher Division 5  
Mrs. Calder, teacher Division 4  
Ms. Butterworth, teacher Division 3  
Ms. Welsh, teacher Division 2  
Ms. Krause, teacher Division 1  
Mrs. Letourneau, Learning assistance  
Ms. Favelle, Aboriginal support teacher  
Ms. Williams, Librarian and Literacy Lead teacher  
Mrs. Robertson, teacher Division 5  
Mrs. Murchie, band/music teacher  
Mr. Gardner, school counsellor  
Mrs. Mansbridge, Speech and Language pathologist

### Support Staff:

Mrs. Williamson, Secretary  
Mrs. O'Donnell, Education Assistant,  
Ms. Mowbray, Education Assistant  
Mrs. Rogers, Education Assistant and noon hour supervisor  
Mr. Alvaro, Education Assistant  
Mrs. Brookes, Educational Assistant  
Mrs. Taylor, library clerk  
Mr. Dashwood, custodian

**Class Organization**

Currently we are enrolling 175 students in eight divisions.

Division 1	Kindergarten	Ms. Krause
Division 2	K/Grade 1	Ms. Welsh
Division 3	Grade 2	Ms. Butterworth
Division 4	Grade 3	Mrs. Calder
Division 5	Grade 4	Ms. Christensen
Division 6	Grade 5	Mr. Snowden
Division 7	Grade 6	Mr. Kirby
Division 8	Grade 7	Mr. Sullivan

**Open House—Thursday September 27 6:30 to 7:30 pm**

Please join us on Thursday for our open house. You child is encouraged to bring parents/ caregivers to the open house. This is an opportunity to see your child’s classroom and meet their teacher. The purpose of this time is to get to know the teacher and hear a little about the class, the expectations and the curriculum. It is not an appropriate time for individual interviews. If you wish to have an opportunity to discuss your child with their teacher please make an appointment for a mutually convenient time to meet.

**Interview Week Sign Up**—New opportunity to pick your interview time for interview week which is Monday October 15 through Thursday October 18. During this week students will be dismissed at 1:30 to allow time for parent/teacher conferences. This year at our Open House there will be blank interview sheets for you to sign up for the interview week of October with your child(ren)’s teachers.

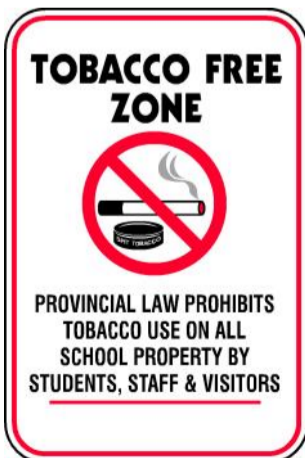
**Terry Fox Run Friday September 28 9:30 am**

Plan to join us for our annual Terry Fox Run this Friday morning at 9:30 am. We will begin with a brief assembly in the gym followed by a twenty minute run on the school grounds. Children will be encouraged to bring in Donations to the Terry Fox Cancer Fund on Friday.

**No Smoking**

The use of tobacco products in school buildings and on school property is now against the law! In March, the B.C. Legislature approved legislation making it illegal to smoke or use tobacco products at school. This ban is effective September 2007 and applies to everyone – students, staff, parents and the public.

Previously, it was against school district policy to smoke in schools or on school grounds, but the policy allowed for some exceptions. The new law will not allow for any exceptions and will include students, staff, parents and visitors during regular school hours, extra-curricular activities and weekends.



We will be posting signs on our buildings and grounds reminding everyone about the ban. We are asking for the cooperation of students, staff, parents and the general public in respecting this new law.

**Planners**

Mount Benson teachers expect that students in grades 3 – 7 have and use a planner. The school can supply your son/daughter with a basic planner at a cost of \$5.00 each. This can be purchased by sending \$5.00 to your classroom teacher or parents can supply their child with a suitable alternative.

**Move More, Eat Well**

Breakfast Does Every Body Good!

Source: [www.actnowbc.ca](http://www.actnowbc.ca)

In the rush to get to school or work, many of us skip breakfast. Yet it makes sense to fill your “empty tank” after a long night without food. Recent research proves that breakfast really is the most important meal of the day – and has a long list of benefits. ....Eating in the morning, and then every 3-4 hours, keeps your body burning fuel efficiently – and helps prevent weight gain.

- Proteins like milk, yogurt, cheese, eggs, peanut butter and nuts keep us alert, responsive, calm and focused
- Whole grain products like multigrain toast or a bowl of oatmeal are high in fibre. High fibre foods fill you up on fewer calories, help to lower bad cholesterol levels and ward off hunger pangs.
- Fruits and vegetables also offer fibre, along with literally thousand of nutrients to help keep your brain and body fuelled for the day ahead.

**PAC NEWS**

PAC Meetings

Any grade 7 students interested in babysitting during PAC meetings need to give a copy of their babysitting and first aid certificates to Mrs. Williamson. You can find babysitting course information in your Parks and Recreation Leisure guide.

Coffee Time

All parents are invited for free coffee and tea every Thursday morning at 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. in the PAC room.

Head Lice

Parent volunteers are needed for the head lice check. These are conducted once a month for approximately 1 1/2 hours. Training is provided. If interested, please leave your name with the school secretary.

Bottle Donations for the PAC

Do you have bottles or recyclable items that you would like to donate to the PAC but don’t want to wait for a bottle drive? You can take them into the return-it depot on Mostar Road and have them put on the PAC account that is set up there. Let the cashier know before they ring it up so they can credit the account. The Mount Benson PAC thanks you for any size donation that is made.