

STAMPEDER EXPRESS



Fall Newsletter 2017

Smith Public School

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Principal: M. Bridges Secretary: K. Bertrim Custodian: D. McPherson

Welcome To Smith Public School—Message From The Principal

In our continuing commitment to motivate our students to achieve academically, as well as develop as good citizens, we have reviewed major and minor rules of the school, reinforced student safety procedures, talked about student celebrations and activities, and reinforced teamwork. We have a tremendous group of students this year! Our population is now at 355 students and growing each month. We also discussed our overall school goals and hopes for school spirit, which are developing quite quickly this year. The positive school climate is a testimony to the strong efforts of the staff to implement successful learning programs and run so many extra-curricular activities already! A special welcome to all of our new students and staff. You are now a Stampeder and part of our school family. Our Character Program this year will be reinforcing “teamwork” and focusing on student “self-regulation”.



I continue to be a very proud principal at this school! This begins my 20th year as a school Principal and I love being here at Smith for my third year. A special thankyou to all of the parents, students and wonderful staff of Smith for making this a great place to work. I think this year will be our best ever! I really believe this, as our school set-up, staff, parents, and students are poised for this success! Our school prides itself on our inclusive nature, where we want to offer something for everyone. I encourage students to try at least one new thing this year—whether a club, sport, musical venture, or other

leadership initiatives. We have planned technology upgrades, facility upgrades, academic programming advances, and new clubs and leadership opportunities, to name but a few things. We will continue our charitable initiatives, character education program, student celebrations, and full sports program. I have to thank our school community for their generous support of our Terry Fox initiatives this year. I will be getting a pie in the face on October 20 (Stampeder Pride Day), as students raised well over our school goal this year for supporting cancer research. We raised just over \$2000! I know times are challenging for all of our families, but thank you for thinking about others. Smith School has everything we need to be one of the best schools in Canada!

Upcoming P.D Days

Friday, October 6

Friday, November 17

Holiday Break

December 23-January 7

Upcoming School Spirit Activities

Stampeder Pride Day **October 20**

Photo Day **October 25**

Halloween Activities **October 31**

Multiplicity Day **November 16**

Pajama Day **December 22**

Toronto Raptor Trip **January 2018**

Dream Big Fundraiser (October 4-20)

Students will be bringing home items for our one main school fundraiser of the year. It is called, “Dream Big” and the brochure will have many different items, including cookie dough, Christmas items, jewelry and even magazine subscriptions. Again, thank you so much for supporting our school. Please note that we are **not using** the same company as last year’s Christmas items which were significantly delayed. Items will arrive at the beginning of December. For every purchase, the school will receive an average of 35% back on our sales.

New For 2017-18

- *new Smartboard to be installed in one more classroom
- *we will be voting on and choosing a new school-wide motivational slogan for us to use all year long on our website, weekly memo, and other publications
- *we have new spirit wear clothing with an all new logo and colour scheme—clothing orders will be coming home this week
- *new books for our school library—Ms. Gretsinger will be book buying on November 13
- *our character focus this school year will be **Teamwork and Self-Regulation**
- *we are continuing the DSBN “I Matter” program this year
- *we are purchasing new Graduation wall plaques and enhancing our Graduation wall
- *we have ordered many new items for our physical education activities, literacy programs, and mathematics programs, among other things
- *we will be ordering new student laptop computers—money from our Fun Fair and Raffle will be used to help with these costs
- *athletic council continues to provide play equipment outside for children to play with at both breaks
- *we are looking into purchasing some graphics for inside the school hallways
- *we will be adding hydro to our outdoor school sign this year, which will help with visibility
- *we have printed new school fridge magnets this year—these will be handed out at our Open House/Meet The Staff and Book Fair evening on October 19
- *we have a second school photocopier in the building



Celebrations and Connections

To you our amazing parents and students, for a very smooth start to the school year! We could not have accomplished so much already without your support. You are amazing!



Safety At Smith P.S.

Safety is one of our top priorities. If our students and staff have a safe and comfortable atmosphere, then everyone can achieve to their potential as a learner. With this in mind we wish to share with our community what safety steps we have completed and what steps we have in place as part of our regular process:

- ✚ All staff wear vests while out on supervision
- ✚ All staff wear name badges for identification purposes
- ✚ We have more than the recommended supervision outside for a school our size
- ✚ We have and will continue to review all of our emergency, safety and medication procedures
- ✚ All staff will be trained two times this year on the proper use of Epipens
- ✚ Medication at our school is secured and administering of medication is carefully tracked
- ✚ We have updated our first aid area
- ✚ We have all of our fire drills and our lock down drill planned in so far this school year
- ✚ We have two formal emergency binders to use in the event of an evacuation of the school

Did You Know?

In the first months of school, your child can join many clubs, try out for sports' teams, and join leadership events. We encourage all of our students to be involved with at least one extra-curricular event each term to make school even more enjoyable and build more friendships. Check our school website for more information about opportunities at www.smith.dsb.org.

Communication Matters

Did you know that children whose parents are involved in their education do better at school than those with less involved parents? They get better grades, have a better attitude toward school and demonstrate more appropriate behaviour. Consider trying a few of these tips to make a **BIG** difference.

Tip 1: Get Involved

Try to attend open houses, book fairs, school plays, assemblies, interviews, community nights, School Council meetings etc.

Tip 2: Check On Homework

Communicate with your child each day about homework.
Provide an organized and quiet place for your child to do school work.
Help your child manage the workload by dividing assignments into small parts.



Tip 3: Make A Good Place For Learning

Praise and encourage your child. Read and encourage your child to read, every day. Set aside a few moments daily, to talk with your child about a special interest he or she has.

Grade 8 Students and Parents: Mark Your Calendars!

Starting high school is a huge step in a student's life. While it's definitely an exciting time, it also brings with it many questions, such as "What's life in high school really like? What programs and options are available to help me achieve my goals?" A great way to have your questions answered is to attend an open house. Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend the following High School Open Houses: **Grimsby Secondary School** (Nov. 28) **Beamsville District Secondary** (Nov. 29)

Picking Up Your Children/ "Kiss and Drop" Area

Once again this school year, for safety and security of our students, when picking up or dropping off your child from school, outside of regular school day hours, please come to the main office and sign them in or out. We want to thank everyone in advance for following this important safety measure. Our school "kiss and drop" area near the walkway at portable 4 is working very well again this year for parents driving their children to and from school.

Stampeder Pride Spirit Day

We invite all of our students and staff to show their Stampeder Pride on October 20. The following activities will be happening:

- Face painting at first break
- Assembly—Mr. Bridges will get a pie in the face by one lucky student!
- Dance time—JK-Grade 3 (period 5); Grade 4-8 (period 6)
- Random prizes handed out to students to thank them for their teamwork!



Visitors and Volunteers

Over the course of the school day we have many visitors and volunteers coming into our school. In order to help maintain the safety and security of our students, we are asking that you sign in at the Main Office when you come to visit or volunteer during regular school hours. **Please pick up and wear one of our Visitor/Volunteer badges at the office.** This helps us to know who is in our building at all times. When coming in from the parking lot please use the front doors of the school. If you are coming to drop something off for your child (i.e., a lunch) or speak with them, please inform the main office and we will inform your child to come and pick-up the item or come to see you at the main office.



Medications/Nut Free Environment

We have reviewed and updated all of our school emergency and safety procedures. To date we have educated staff and students about children in the school with possible life threatening allergies and have put in place our crisis response protocols. We hope we do not have to exercise these procedures but are prepared for all emergency scenarios. **A reminder that our school is a “Nut Free Environment”.** We also wish to remind our families that all medications (prescription or non-prescription) need to be housed at our main office for security and safety reasons. We will gladly administer medication to students with the proper form filled out by a parent. This form is available through our main office. All medications must be in their original container with the pharmacist label on them.



Healthy Foods and Drinks

We would like to encourage our students to remember that good nutritional habits are essential to a healthy mind and body. With this mind, we ask students not to consume pop or other high caffeine and high sugar related drinks while at school. We sell chocolate milk in our school store should students need a drink. We also ask students to bring healthy snacks to school to consume at their nutritional breaks. This will allow them to maximize their learning by giving their brain what it needs as fuel! Students are encouraged to drink lots of water during the school day.

School Council

Our School Council meets on Tuesday, October 24. Smith P.S. has always had an outstanding School Council. Consider joining our team this year. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

At this meeting we will elect our new chairperson, among other positions.



Safe Arrival Program



If your child is absent with no explanation we will attempt to contact you, or someone identified by you, in order to determine your child's whereabouts. If your child is going to be absent, we need you to contact us before 8:30 a.m. To assist you, we have an answering machine service so you may call even after regular school hours. There is no special telephone number, just the regular school number (905-945-8014). Please provide the following information:

***your child's name and grade *the date your child will be absent, and the length of absence *the reason for your child's absence**

Halloween Activities

On October 31, students are invited to wear Halloween costumes at school should they wish to. We do have some school rules for costumes:

- + No face masks or other items that cover the face; no overly violent or gory costumes
- + No costume should prohibit the student from participating fully in their learning program on this day
- + No toy weapons (these can still be “accidentally” dangerous in a school of 350 people)



We plan on hosting a costume parade at 11:45 a.m. (parents/visitors welcome) and family pumpkin challenge on this day. More information will come home closer to the date.

Upcoming Dates

Junior Co-ed Soccer Tournament @ Smith P.S.	October 3
Dream Big Fundraiser	October 4-20
Annual Fire Inspection	October 4
Cross Country Meet @ Nelles P.S. (a.m.)	October 5
P.D. Day (No School Today For Students)	October 6
Thanksgiving Day Holiday	October 9
Fire Drill #2	October 11
Class Review Day (discussing each student in the school)	October 11
Book Fair Week	October 17-20
Grade 7 and 8 Immunizations	October 18
Meet The Staff/Open House (5:00-7:00 p.m.)	October 19
Stampeder Pride Spirit Day (Pie "Smushing" of Mr. Bridges)	October 20
School Council Meeting	Oct. 24 (6:30 p.m.)
Fire Drill #3	October 24
Photo Day	October 25
Grade 6 Trip To Walker Outdoor Campus	October 25
Halloween Activities	October 31
Parent Involvement Conference	November 1
Gr. 7/8 Ottawa Trip Info. Meeting	Nov. 2 (6:30 p.m.)
Progress Report Cards Come Home	November 9
Remembrance Day Ceremonies	November 10
Multiplicity Day Spirit Day	November 16
P.D. Day (No School Today For Students)	November 17
Photo Retakes	November 24
Kindergarten Dental Screening (a.m.)	November 27
JK-Grade 3 Little Mermaid Musical	December 14
Last Day of School Before Holidays/Pajama Day	December 22
First Day Back in 2018	January 8

I have read the newsletter. Please include my child/children in the newsletter draw for prizes!

Family Name

Child(ren) in the school

Parent/Guardian Signature

(Please return to the school by Tuesday, October 12)





Register For School Cash On-line



Using School Cash On-line is our preferred method of payment as it is safe, secure, and convenient for our families.

We are looking to go from 78% of our families who have registered, to 100%!

All of our school initiatives, classroom trips, special events, special lunches, or other opportunities will be on-line. Even the permission forms will be on-line for school activities making it much easier for parents to know about events for their child. No more searching the backpacks for permission forms and information!

Registering for School Cash On-line is easy. Information on how to register is on our school website. If you are already registered, you do not have to do it again.

If you would like to come into the school and register with us, we will gladly offer to help in this regard. It takes just 5 minutes to register and we can also show you how easy it is to order things like pizza, sign up and pay for class trips, and so much more.

