###### Important Dates

Sept. 15 School Council Sept. 21 Photo Day

Sept. 22 Meet the Teacher

Sept. 23 Non-Instructional

Sept. 29 Terry Fox Run

Oct. 7 Non-Instructional

# Newsletter | September 2016

**ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE**

Welcome to the new RT Alderman 2016-2017 school year. We look forward working together to ensure that each and every student is a successful learner and a responsible citizen.

The first month back to school is an exciting time for students, parents/guardians and staff members. Students look forward to seeing their new classmates, their new teacher(s) as well as meeting new friends. And this year, as we are sharing a space with Dr. George Stanley School, until January, students have an ever greater opportunity to connect with friends.

Given our new size, as well as the amalgamation of space between two schools, I realize that there have been several changes at RTA. I will try my best to communicate regularly through our website: <http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b653/> via the Principal Blog.

We are a small, but exceptional staff at RTA. Our goal this year is to provide our students with rich learning opportunities, both inside the classroom and outside the community; to innovate; to create; to explore; and to build confidence.

Classes for the 2016-2017 school year were thoughtfully created by teachers last June, and reviewed, again, in August. When considering classroom placement, teachers looked at a variety of factors: special needs, gender, social groupings, friends, and learner profiles, while keeping the big picture in mind. A school package was sent out to each student with forms. Please read, fill in, sign and return to your child’s homeroom teacher, as soon as possible

During the first few weeks of school, staff will establish routines, review academic and behavioural expectations, assess students and build positive relationships so that our students and families feel a sense of belonging at RT.

We believe that it is important to celebrate and to share all of the wonderful things that happen, as we start the new school year. Please call if you have any questions or suggestions at any time.

Kind regards,

Brenda Lewis

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**Bell Times**

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| Monday to Thursday |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **AM Warning Bell** | **8:50 - 8:55** | | **Period 1** | **8:55 - 9:53** | | **Period 2** | **9:53 - 10:51** | | **Period 3** | **10:51 - 11:49** | | **Lunch** | **11:49 - 12:36** | | **Period 4** | **12:36 - 1:34** | | **Period 5** | **1:34 - 2:32** | | **Period 6** | **2:32 - 3:30** | |

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| **Friday Bell Times** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **AM Warning Bell** | **8:50 - 8:55** | | **Period 1** | **8:55 - 9:47** | | **Period 2** | **9:47-10:39** | | **NB** | **10:39 - 10:46** | | **Period 3** | **10:46 - 11:38** | | **Period 4** | **11:38 - 12:30** | |

**Student Absences**

Please call the school if your child will be absent or late for school :403-777-7520.

**Student Safety**

Safety and security is a priority at RTA. Visitors to the school will be asked to sign in at the front office and to wear a visitor’s pass.

**Volunteering**

Volunteers are a crucial part of our school success. Without volunteers, so many of our experiential learning opportunities would never happen. Please contact your child’s teacher, if you would like to volunteer at the school. If you do not have an updated **Police Clearance Check**, please come to the office with your photo ID (a driver’s license), and you will receive a letter to take to the Police Station or complete on-line. Volunteers are not able to work with students without this clearance. This decision is made in the best interests for the safety of students and staff members of RTA.

**School Council**

RTA’s first school council meeting is on Thursday, September 15th at 6:00PM in the Learning Commons. School Council meetings typically take place the second Thursday of every month. Dates will be posted in advance on the school website.

The role of School Council:

1. To provide a channel of communication and learning between school staff and the parents of the students in attendance.

2. To encourage parent involvement in the school and its activities.

3. To provide a forum for constructive feedback to the staff regarding existing and proposed school programs

4. To support school educational and developmental objectives through funding of additional learning resources, programs, events, etc.

5. To network with other school councils or associated groups with similar aims of improving education of all our children.

We look forward to seeing you at our School Council Meetings**.**

**Meet the Teacher**

On Thursday, September 22, 7:00-9:00PM, families are invited to come to RTA School for Meet the Teacher. Parents/Guardians and students will have the opportunity to explore the school and to visit all of their classroom teachers. There is no booking for this event.

If you would like to meet with your child’s teacher(s), individually, to discuss their learning profile, prior to the next set of interviews in November, we invite you to call/email the teacher to set up a separate meeting.



**Welcome to the 2016-17 school year**

Whether this is your first, fifth or last “back to school” season with the CBE, we look forward to making the 2016-17 school year a great one.

The start of a new year has always been memorable to me. As a student, I looked forward to seeing my friends again after the summer break. As a teacher, I had big dreams and plans to put into motion. As a parent of a CBE student, I wonder what my child will learn and what challenges and successes we will celebrate together. When I was a principal, the first days of school were a whirlwind of activity as I helped families, teachers and students settle in. As chief superintendent, I am responsible for creating the conditions under which each student will learn and grow to the very best of their ability.

This is a natural time to refresh commitments and goals for the year. I’d like to share mine:

**Improving student success**

I am committed to the success of your child and each of the more than 117,000 students in the CBE. Personalized learning - understanding the interests, accomplishments, needs and goals of each student and planning for their progress and achievement - is the foundation of our work. Success for each student is our goal, and everyone at the CBE is focused on ensuring that each student can be successful. This year we’ll be bringing new focus to our work in literacy and math and our work with Aboriginal students. We will also be renewing our high school success strategy and building on our already improving high school completion rates.

**Supporting our staff**

For our students to succeed, our teachers and other staff members must also continue to learn. Investing in our teachers and the people who support our schools is critical to our success. During 2016-17 we will be building a new on-boarding process for teachers and building new supports for school leaders.

**Building and opening new schools**

I am committed to providing enriching learning environments for all our students. We are continuing to build, modernize and operationalize 31 new schools and maintain more than 225 existing ones. Our students deserve the very best places to learn and we are working hard to make that happen.

**Providing safe and caring environments**

Every student also needs to feel safe in their school environment, and I am committed to ensuring that our schools and workplaces are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe places for everyone.

**Listening to your voices**

This year, I will work to ensure that you have an opportunity to share your perspectives on issues and decisions that affect you. I look forward to meeting many of you at open houses and other engagement sessions and learning together. We will communicate clearly with you about things that are happening at your child’s school and throughout our system.

2016-17 is already shaping up to be a memorable school year, and I look forward to all we will learn and experience together.

David Stevenson

Chief Superintendent of Schools