**School Start-Up Information and Welcome Back**

**Dear École Bannatyne Families,**

Welcome back to all our amazing Bannatyne students and families, and a warm welcome to all the families new to our school! We hope you enjoyed a fantastic summer break and that you are all recharged and ready for a challenging and rewarding school year. The staff at École Bannatyne is looking forward to an exciting year ahead; a year filled with growing and learning together. We would like to extend best wishes to you and your family as we embark on the 2019-2020 school year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the incredible Bannatyne staff who are working tirelessly to prepare our school and their classrooms for opening day. We would like to welcome our new staff members: Mme Burnett, Vice-Principal, Mme Kingsley, Grade 5-26, Mme Brar, Grade 3-3 and Mme Bilous, Educational Assistant. We would also like to welcome back Mme Anna and Mme St. Onge. We have a fantastic team of educators and we all look forward to working together with you in order to make this a rewarding and successful school year.

The start of a new school year is an opportune time to be reminded of school routines and procedures that support our collective efforts towards maintaining student safety. With student safety in mind, please note the following, important regulations, routines and procedures:

**Student drop-off:** Our school population continues to grow and, as such, the staff parking lot has become increasingly dangerous and can no longer be used for student drop-off. When dropping off your children before school in the morning, please do not drive through the staff parking lot and instead, park on one of the side streets around the school. Please be sure to exit your car with your children and walk them safely across the street to the playground area. Please also be aware of the parking regulations on the streets and respectful of the neighbouring homes’ driveways, especially on Thompson Drive. When parking on Thompson, please only park along the west side, always facing south and again, exit your car and walk your child safely across the street to enter the playground. Our hope is to reduce the congestion and traffic in the parking lot and help keep our students safe.

**Dogs**: Please be reminded of the City’s regulation that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds.

**Visitors**: When visiting the school, please report directly to the office to sign-in as a Visitor.

**Absence Reporting and changes to dismissal routines**: Please follow the link on our website for reporting student absences and send notes in with your child when there are changes in dismissal routines. Please avoid calling the office with changes to dismissal routine during the very hectic time at the end of the school day.

**Volunteers**: We value the efforts and support of our amazing volunteers and there are many volunteer opportunities throughout the school year. Please note that all volunteers are required to have completed both Criminal Record and Child Abuse Registry checks, so those interested in volunteering should contact Mme Cadieux at the office for further details and information about the required background checks.

**Student Fees**: Please follow the link on the school website to pay your child(ren) 2019-2020 school fees of $45. The fees cover the cost of the shared, classroom school supplies and student agenda.

**Lunch**: Students from Grade 1 to 5 are welcome to eat their lunch at school. Lunches are sent from home and are to include any required utensils. We encourage students to eat healthy snacks and lunches and to be mindful of the environment by bringing their food in re-usable containers. Please note that students do not have access to microwaves so hot lunches should be sent in a Thermos. Lunches are eaten in the classroom and supervision is provided by our incredible team of Lunch Supervisors. All students are expected to follow the procedures and direction from the Lunch Supervisors.

**We are in need of more Lunch Hour Supervisors**. It is a paid position and our program cannot be effective without the support of our Supervisors. If you, or anyone you know, may be available and interested, please contact our Vice-Principal, Mme Burnett directly at 204-888-1101 or by email at jburnett@sjsd.net.

This school year, we will continue to work to support students in achieving their goals by fostering a positive and exciting school culture founded in trusting relationships and alight with learning. Our vision is that all students come to school and feel safe and confident enough to take the risks necessary for learning. Our goals this year reflect our on-going commitment to helping students improve their English and French writing abilities and Math literacy skills. Our goals also reflect our commitment to helping students deepen and expand their learning through challenging and engaging learning opportunities that reflect Problem Solving, Critical Thinking and 21st Century Learning Skills.

Our school website [https://sjasd/school/bannatyne](https://sjasd/school/bannatyne%20) is updated regularly and is a great source of information. There are links to many documents including the Parent Handbook, which includes important information such as dates to remember, dismissal routines, Lunch Hour procedures and rules, as well as our Code of Conduct. Please take time to review it as well as visit the website for future reference.

We look forward to working together in pursuit of excellence in education and towards another amazing school year! Thank you in advance for your continued support and partnership in your child’s learning.

Sincerely,

Mme R. Boyko, Principal & Mme J. Burnett, Vice-Principal