

AUGUST, 2017

# BES News

Principal's Newsletter

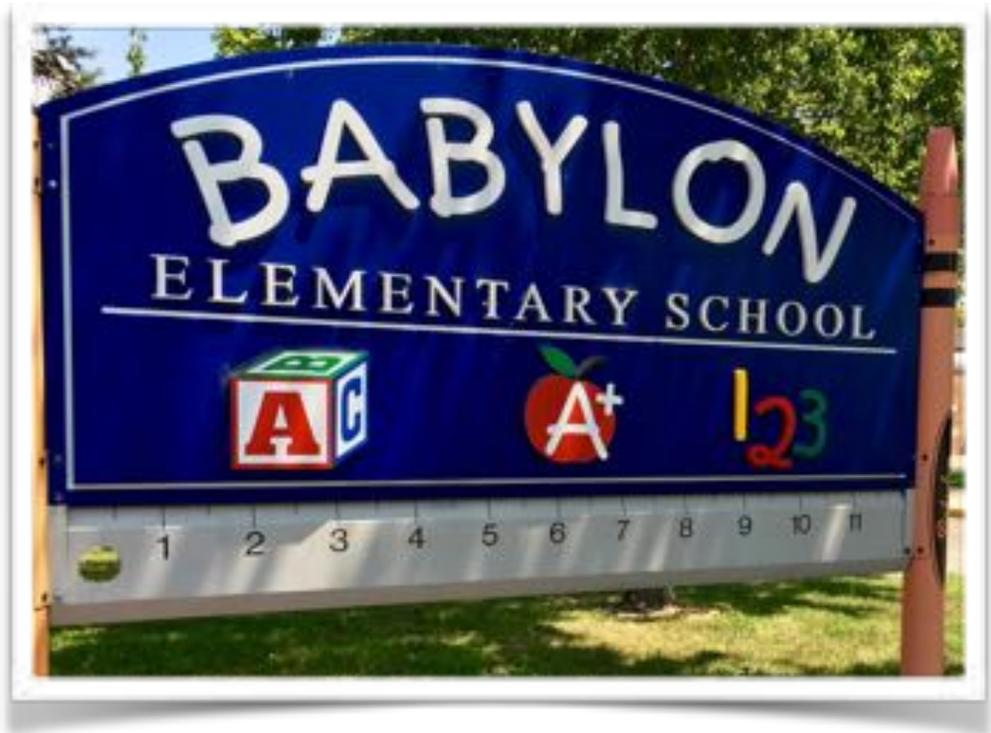
Welcome to the  
2017-2018  
School Year!

I hope that this summer brought a nice balance of rest, relaxation, and rejuvenating fun! As the summer days begin coming to a close, know that we have been busy preparing our wonderful building for the new school year. We are eager for our classrooms to be filled with the energy that our students bring each day!

A year of...  
cultivating WONDER,  
building COMMUNITY,  
& inspiring LIFE-  
LONG learners.

We will introduce the home component of the social-emotional curriculum early in the year and will regularly share resources for use at home. Our staff here at BES looks forward to partnering with each family within this strong school community to cultivate wonder in our students for the world around them.

This newsletter is designed to provide families with an overview of important information to prepare for the **first day of school, Thursday, September 7th**. The additional contents of this mailing include a great deal of information, including a welcome letter from your child's teacher as well as a color-coded bus pass for those families with district-provided transportation. Please take time to review each item carefully.



The opening of a new school year is always exciting. This year we welcome new staff members who will undoubtedly strengthen and sustain our philosophy of inspiring students to become caring, life-long learners. Our students will be supported by a new social-emotional curriculum which will be woven throughout their school day.

## SCHOOL HOURS

**8:10-8:25:** Breakfast Program

**8:25 a.m.:** Start of School Day

**2:40 p.m.:** Dismissal

## RECESS & LUNCH HOURS

**10:41-11:41:** Grade 2

**11:15-12:15:** Grade 1

**11:50-12:50:** Kindergarten

## SCOPE PROGRAM

**7:00 a.m.:** Before School Care

**2:40-6:30 p.m.:** After School

# First Days of School at BES

## **THURS., SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

### **\* KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION DAY \***

Rather than a full day on September 7th, Kindergarten students spend an abbreviated, orientation session at the times listed below. All K students should be accompanied by a parent or guardian for their orientation session.

---☆ **9:15-10:15:** Kindergarten students with last names beginning with **A-L**.

---☆ **10:45-11:45:** Kindergarten students with last names beginning with **M-Z**.

**Grade 1 and Grade 2** students: Full day back to school!

8:25 - 2:40. Transportation will be provided.

## **FRI., SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

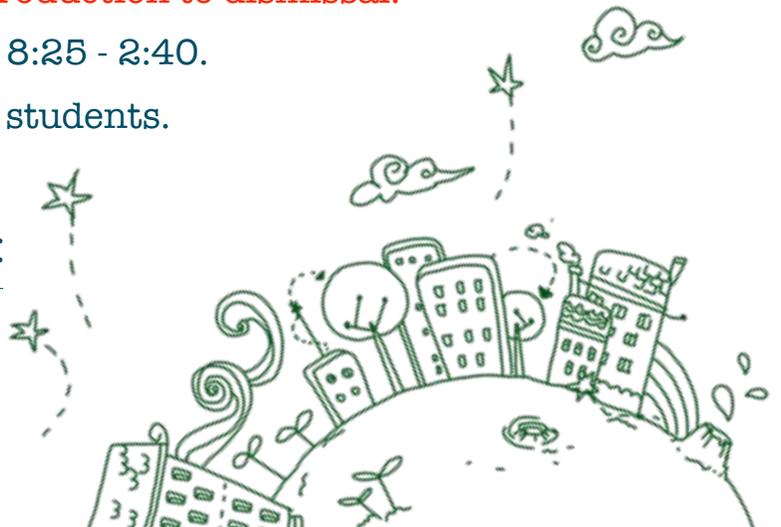
**Kindergarten students** arrive for the start of the school day by 8:25 a.m. but **dismiss early at 11:05 a.m.** for an introduction to dismissal.

**Grade 1 and Grade 2:** Full school day, 8:25 - 2:40.

Transportation will be provided for all students.

## **MON., SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Full school day for all students K - 2.





## Attendance

Consistent attendance in school is a critical factor to a child's academic success. It is expected that students will attend school consistently unless they are ill. The **NYS Education Department requires a written note** explaining the reason for a school absence. This note must be signed by the parent or guardian and then be sent to the classroom teacher when the student returns to school. While phone calls to the health office reporting the child's absence are appreciated, they do NOT take the place of the required written note.

## Cafeteria Service

Babylon UFSD offers healthy meals every school day. The breakfast and lunch program will be available for **Grade 1 and Grade 2 students beginning the first day of school, Thursday, September 7, 2017**. Breakfast and lunch will be available to **all students, K-2, beginning Monday, September 11, 2017**. A lunch menu for the month of September will be distributed during the first week of school. The **cost of breakfast is \$1.50 and lunch is \$2.75**. Additional information from the Babylon UFSD Department of Food and Nutrition is included in this mailing, along with a free/reduced lunch application. For qualifying students, the cost of **reduced breakfast & lunch is \$0.25**. See the enclosed packet for information about the convenient MySchoolBucks® online payment service.

If your child will be participating in the **breakfast program**, please review the following procedure with him/her prior to their first day:

- ☆ Breakfast is available beginning at 8:10 a.m.
- ☆ Students should go directly to the cafeteria upon arrival to school. School personnel will be on hand to assist students while in the cafeteria.
- ☆ When students finish breakfast, they are to go directly to their classrooms.

## Health & Safety

The District utilizes Online Contact Verification within the eSchool Parent Portal. This feature allows parents to update parent/guardian contact information online through the Portal. **Please take time to review your contact information** to be sure it is accurate and up to date. If you already have a Parent Portal account, simply login to update your information. If you do not yet have an account, you can apply by visiting the district website at [www.babylonufsd.com](http://www.babylonufsd.com), and following the links through the "Resources" tab. Remember to **contact the school anytime your contact information changes** so that our paper records can also be updated.

Please be sure that your child's **physical exam and immunizations are updated** prior to the start of the school year. Our school nurse, Ms. Patrice Bagdanoff, has included a helpful guide for parents in this mailing. Please contact our health office (631-893-7966) with any health and attendance questions throughout the year.

Additionally, throughout the school year, we hold fire drills, lockdown drills, and evacuation drills. During fire drills, we teach the students how to exit the building quietly. During lockdown drills, we explain that this is another drill used to keep them safe; students are taught to "pretend no one is home." Evacuation drills are considered "fire drills without bells." Through all of these drills, students become familiar with the term evacuation and learn to exit the building safely and efficiently.

## PTA Membership

The Babylon K-6 PTA is enormously helpful throughout the year and a wonderful asset to our school. Please check the district calendar for a variety of activities planned for you and your family to enjoy. Your contributions to your child's education at home and at school are sincerely welcomed and we look forward to your PTA participation throughout the year. For more information on getting involved in the PTA, please refer to the insert in this mailing.

# Transportation

If your child is eligible for busing, a bus tag is included in this mailing. The bus tag includes your child's bus color, bus stop, and approximate morning pick-up time. Please arrive at your child's bus stop 10 minutes prior to your scheduled pick-up time. The **enclosed bus tag should be attached to your child's backpack** in a visible location prior to the first day of school.

Students in **Kindergarten through 2nd grade require a parent or the parent's designee** to meet him/her at the bus stop in the afternoon. Please **complete the enclosed form** to designate individuals who will be permitted to pick up your child from the bus stop. Return this form with your child on the first day of school.

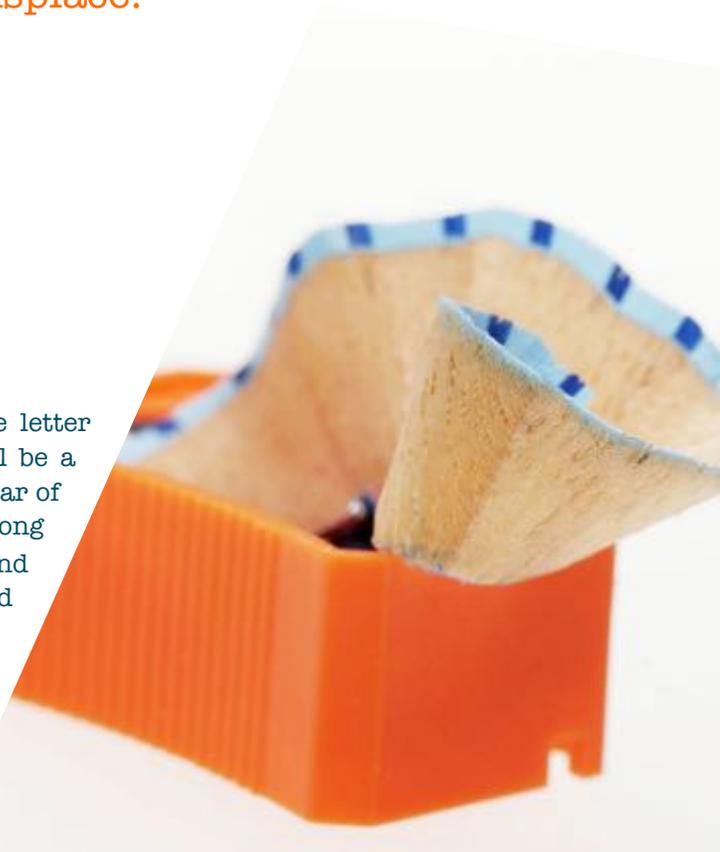
**Please note that students will only be permitted to board their assigned buses. Drivers will only release students at the stops noted on their passes.** Until drivers are familiar with the designated adults permitted to pick-up each child, they may ask for photo identification at afternoon bus stops. These procedures are in place to ensure your child's safety and we appreciate your cooperation and communication throughout the year should information change. For additional information related to transportation, please visit <http://www.babylon.k12.ny.us/departments/transportation>, or contact Karen Bustamante at (631) 893-7915.

'School-Wise'  
HELPFUL  
HINT:

★ Label all student belongings with your child's first and last name. This includes lunch bags, seasonal clothing, and any other items that students could misplace.

## Class Placement

Your child's class placement is noted by the teacher welcome letter included in this mailing. We are confident that this year will be a successful one for you and your child. Setting the table for a year of success involves considering each student's individual needs along with parent, teacher, and staff input. The teachers and staff spend many hours composing well-balanced, thoughtfully organized class rosters to ensure that each student is placed in an optimal learning environment. It is, therefore, not possible to make any class changes at this time. Please do not put us in the position of having to deny your request. Your understanding and cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.





# September Events

We are excited about the Elementary School events that are scheduled for the month of September. Each of the events are noted on our District Calendar which is accessible at the District website under the "Calendars" link. A snapshot is shared below highlighting the Elementary School events. We encourage your participation in these events as well as all district-wide events scheduled throughout the month and the year!

AUGUST 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



OCTOBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

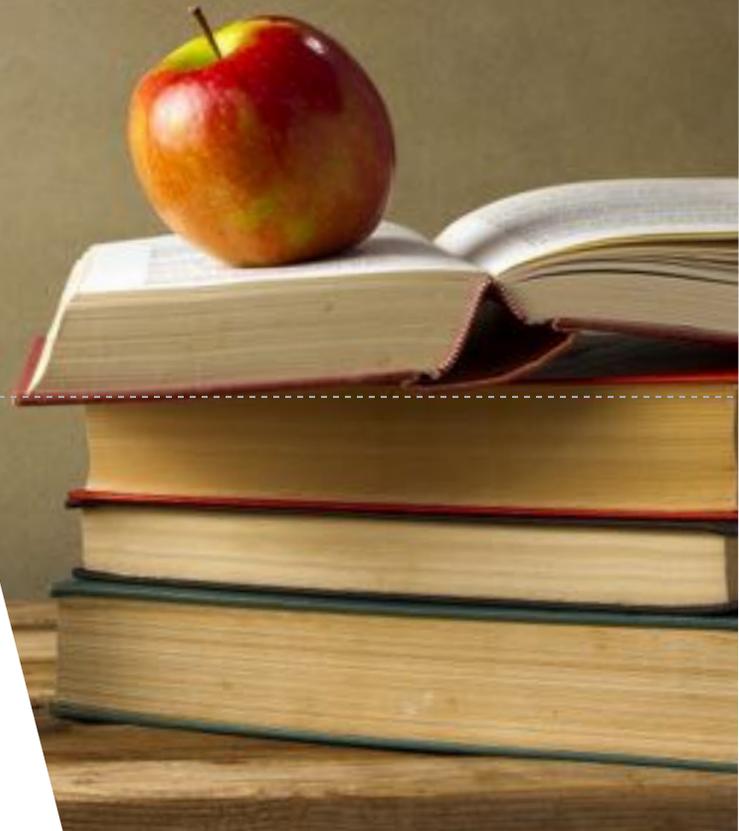
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <b>Abbreviation Key:</b>                      Senior High School – HS; Junior High School – JHS;                      Grade School – GS; Elementary School – ES                 </div>						
3	4 <b>LABOR DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED</b>	5 <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY  SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS</b>	6 <b>SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY  SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS</b>	7 <b>First Day of School for Students</b>  <b>ES Kindergarten Welcome</b> 9:15-10:15am (Families A-L) 10:45-11:45am (Families M-Z)	8 <b>ES Kindergarten Early Dismissal 11:05am</b>	9
10	11 <b>Patriot Day National Day of Remembrance</b>  JHS Sports Begin	12 <b>Board of Education Regular Business Meeting 7:30pm @ HS</b>	13 GS Open House / "Meet the Teacher Night" Grades 3 & 4 - 6:30pm Grades 5 & 6 - 7:30pm	14 <b>ES Open House / "Meet the Teacher Night" 6:30pm @ ES</b>  HS School Portrait Day (Grades 8 - 12)	15 <b>ES Grade 1 Family Breakfast</b> 7:45 am (Curricular Overview) @ ES Cafeteria	16
17	18 HS Senior Class Student and Parent Planning Night 7:00pm @ Rowe Hall	19 <b>PTA Meeting</b> 7:00pm @ ES Cafeteria	20	21 <b>ROSH HASHANAH SCHOOLS CLOSED</b>	22 <b>ROSH HASHANAH SCHOOLS CLOSED</b>	23
24	25 <b>Board of Education Work/Study Meeting</b> 7:30pm @ HS	26 <b>PTSA Meeting 7pm</b> @ HS Library	27 <b>SEPTA Meeting</b> 7:00pm @ ES Cafeteria	28 HS Open House / "Meet the Teacher Night" 7:00pm @ HS	29 <b>ES Grade 2 Family Breakfast</b> 7:45am (Curricular Overview) @ ES Cafeteria  <b>ES Fall Festival 6:00pm @ ES</b>	30 <b>YOM KIPPUR</b>

# The story of our school year...

In closing, know that the staff at Babylon Elementary School values a strong home-school partnership. Please share with us the hopes and dreams you have for your children in our conversations this year or through the surveys we have accessible on our school's website ([http://www.babylon.k12.ny.us/our\\_schools/babylon\\_elementary\\_school](http://www.babylon.k12.ny.us/our_schools/babylon_elementary_school)). We hope to hear from everyone!

As coauthors of this school year's story and the educational careers of your children, let us make this year the best story of a school year written to date!

See you in September!



*Mr. Davey*

Principal

(631) 893-7960

[tdavey@babylonufsd.com](mailto:tdavey@babylonufsd.com)