



# BEEST

**BERT EDWARDS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
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January 2026 Newsletter

## Message from Mrs. Edstrom

I would like to welcome everyone back next week, after what I hope was a restful and relaxing holiday. We look forward to seeing all of our students very soon!

Thank you for continuing to pick-up your child outside. This routine helps tremendously in preserving learning time and in encouraging independence. It also helps to keep our hallways more accessible and safe for students to move around. If your child is arriving late or being picked-up early, please check in at the front office.

Please be reminded that a weekly email is sent out to all families each Friday. These emails include important information about school events and activities. In addition to the weekly email, a monthly newsletter is sent out at the beginning of each month. These communications can be accessed on our website (beneath the “What’s Happening” tab).

We continue to work on our school learning plan. Our school goals are as follows:

- 1. All students will develop improved proficiency in literacy skills.**
- 2. Students will feel pride in belonging to a science and technology school and they will connect to and understand our school identity.**

### **Cold Weather Clothing**

A reminder to parents about helping to make sure their children are properly dressed for outside weather. Winter is in full swing, and there is still a lot of cold to come! Students need to be prepared to be outside during parts of the day, and it helps to have boots, warm coats, gloves and hats.

### **2026 Kindergarten Registration**

Please note that School of Choice Kindergarten Registration dates are scheduled for January 19th-23rd 2026. Please visit our school office during this week if you would like to register your child for Kindergarten at BEST for September 2026.

### **Schools of Choice Kindergarten Registration Information Night**

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 6:30-7:30pm (Zoom Meeting)

[Information and Link Found Here](#)

January 19th - 23rd 2026

- Registration process:
  - Pick-up registration package from School of Choice. Return completed forms to school by 12 PM on January 23rd 2026
  - Parents will be required to provide child's care card, proof of address, child's birth certificate, and custody agreement if applicable
  - Registration packages for students with an older sibling will be sent home with that sibling **(BY REQUEST only)**
  - If you have questions, please contact the school directly to book an appointment
- Registration is NOT first come, first served. If there are more children registered than there are seats at the School of Choice, a random draw will be held.

### **Upcoming Events**

Jan. 5th	Classes Resume
Jan. 7th	PAC Meeting 6pm
Jan. 8th/9th	Grade 7 Bottle Drive
Jan. 14th	School of Choice Information Night Zoom 6:30-7:30pm
Jan. 16th	PAC Pasta Lunch
Jan. 20th	Blazers visit BEST
Jan. 19th – 23rd	School of Choice Kindergarten Registration
Jan. 13th and 28th	Breakfast for all classes

### **Literacy Week**

January 24th - 31st is Literacy Week. Classes will be doing a variety of activities to engage in and celebrate literacy learning. Each student will receive an Unplug and Play form. Completed forms are due back to Ms. Kipp by Feb. 3rd and will be entered into a draw for prizes.

### **A Call for Artwork**

We are opening up Young Artists this year to all Intermediate Students (4-7). Students can submit artwork created at home or school. All art submissions are due to Mrs. Phillips by Feb. 13th.

### **Variety Talent Show**

We are planning a variety talent show on March 13th. Students who are interested in performing can audition later this month. Students can present a variety of talents such as dance, music, sports, and science demonstrations. Expressions of interest are due Jan. 16th.

### **Basketball**

This season we will have four basketball teams (Boys Tier 2, Girls Tier 2, Boys Tier 3 and Girls Tier 3). Additional information and schedules will be distributed soon.

## **MINISTRY STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY**

In January/February 2026 Grade 4 and 7 students will complete the Ministry Student Learning Survey. The **survey opens** on **January 6th 2026** and we ask BEST parents to complete their responses by February 13th 2026. All parents and staff are also invited to provide feedback (no login credentials required). Staff and parents have direct access with no codes needed to complete the survey. You can find the link on the BEST Website “I’d like to” tab or [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm)

Find our district and school name and language you prefer. Your views are completely anonymous, but very helpful in planning for our school.

### **Grade 7 Student Information**

Grade 7 parents, please review the information below about transitioning to high school. It has been approved by the school board that all BEST students (regardless of their home address) can attend Norkam Secondary. BEST students living in a different catchment area can choose to attend Norkam or their catchment high school. A form will be sent home this month where families will need to indicate their preference.

The plan for this year and subsequent years is as follows:

- All grade 7 students from BEST, regardless of their home address, will be transitioned to Norkam Secondary
  - BEST is situated within the catchment of Norkam Secondary
  - The majority of students attending BEST live within Norkam's catchment
  - Educationally, it is important to keep student cohorts together whenever possible, especially during school transition periods (Grade 7 to 8 for example)
  
- A grade 7 student from BEST who resides outside of Norkam's catchment, has the opportunity to register at their catchment high school
  - Parents would confirm their registration at their catchment school directly with the catchment school's staff
  - This should be done by March 1<sup>st</sup> to support the student's course selection process

- A grade 7 student from BEST who wishes to attend a school different than Norkam, *but resides outside the catchment of that preferred school must submit a transfer request directly to the preferred school.*
  - *Transfer requests for a non-catchment preferred school can be made beginning March 1st*

### **Grade 7 Bottle Drive**

Please save your cans and bottles for the upcoming bottle drive on January 8th and 9th. Items can be dropped off before and after school on January 8th and 9th (in roundabout near Windsor Avenue)

### **After School Art Class**

There will be an after school art class being offered at BEST on Thursdays beginning on January 22nd - March 12th (2:35pm-4:30pm). This class will be offered to students in Grade 3. We have 20 spaces, so if we receive more applicants than we have space for, we will do a random draw to determine who will attend. Forms will be offered to students during the first week of January.

## **BEST Skating Times 2026**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Class</b>
<b>Jan. 7th</b>	9:00-10:00am	McArthur Island OLY	Unsworth	Adams	Vermey
<b>Jan. 14th</b>	11-12	Brock	Wood	Ernst	Hummel
<b>Jan. 21st</b>	10:15-11:15am	McArthur Island OLY	Farber	Bowden	Kershaw
<b>Jan. 28th</b>	10:45-11:45	Brock	Farber	Bowden	Ernst
<b>Feb. 4th</b>	9:00-10:00am	McArthur Island OLY	Adams	Wood	
<b>Feb. 11th</b>	1-2	Brock	Denison	Campbell	Duquette
<b>Feb. 25th</b>	9:30-10:30am	Brock	Denison	Campbell	Hummel
<b>March 4th</b>	10:30-11:30	McArthur Island NHL	Denison	Campbell	Duquette

