



# Barlow Creek Newsletter

Ms. N. Danuser, Principal

January 16, 2026

Ms. D. Telford, Secretary

816 Barkerville Highway, Quesnel BC V2J 6S6

Phone: (250) 992-5134 □ FAX: (250) 992-3146

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dahooja Barlow Creek Families!

Happy New Year! It is delightful to be back at school and watching your children as they continue to learn and grow.

Please review the attached Barlow Creek Elementary School Code of Conduct and Student Bus Behaviour Expectations with your children to remind them of expected behaviours at school and the buses.

Our January BLAZERS is Zippy – being enthusiastic and positive about learning. When you are zippy you are excited and willing to try new things and encourage others to be positive. Our February BLAZERS is Earthly – taking care of the environment, only using what you need, and being a good citizen. When you are earthly you help take care of our earth, recycle, reduce waste and keep our school and grounds litter free.

Sunachailya Barlow Creek Elementary PAC for supporting our school with your time and generosity. The McDonald's lunch and Kernels popcorn were enjoyed by all.

Sunachailya to our Student Voice group for organizing the winter craft afternoon! You did a wonderful job.

We appreciate your ongoing support and patience. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact the school.

Sunachailya,  
Ms. Danuser  
Principal



## ***Dressing for the Weather***

We would like to remind ALL students to dress for the weather! Unless it is extremely cold (-15C) we will be outside for lunch and recess. Wear layers, along with proper attire - such as, a **warm jacket, snow pants, mittens/gloves, toque and boots!**

**Even on colder days we may still head outside because temperatures can change!**

A change of clothes in your backpack is a great idea!

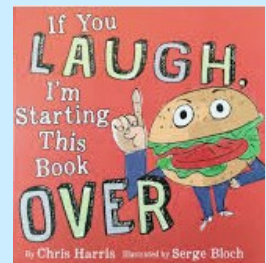
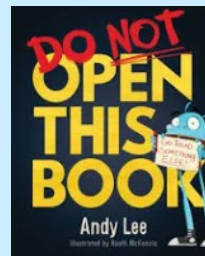
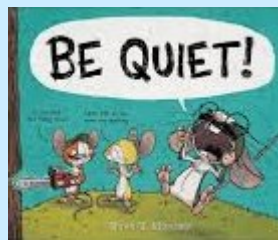
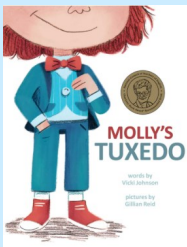
## **UPCOMING DATES:**

MDI Grade 6—10:20am	Jan 19
PAC Meeting - 6:00pm library	Jan 21
Hot Lunch—Panago Pizza	Jan 21
Ski forms are <b>due back</b>	Jan 22
K—Grade 2 skating day 8:45-10:30	Jan 22, 29
January Assembly—10:20 am	Jan 29
Kindergarten Registration (more information to follow)	Feb 2— March 13
Quesnel River Rush—10:30-11:30	Jan 28
School Spirit Day—Tacky Tourist	Jan 28
District Non-Instructional Day <b>School forstaff only</b>	Jan 30
World Read Aloud Day	Feb 5
Hot Lunch—Hot dogs	Feb 5
Candy guess jar fundraiser Winner announced	Feb 9-11 Feb 13
PAC Valentine Dance	Feb 13
Real Acts of Caring Week	Feb 8-14
Valentines Day	Feb 14
Family Day—no school	Feb 16
PAC Meeting - 6:00pm library	Feb 18
Hot Lunch-Pango Pizza	Feb 19
Troll Skiing Days	Feb 23,26
Pink Shirt Day February Assembly—11:15 pm	Feb 25



December's book battle books were "Molly's Tuxedo" and "Be Quiet". The winner of October's book battle is "Be Quiet"

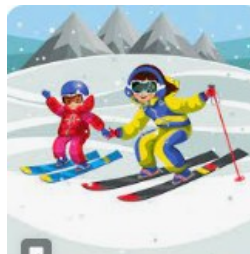
The January's book battle books are "Do Not Open This Book" and "If You Laugh, I Am Starting This Book Over" Happy Book Battling!



## SKI TRIP UPDATE

Our Grade 3 to 7 Ski Trip dates to Troll are  
**February 23 and 26, 2026**

Forms sent home Jan 12th  
**DUE BACK JANUARY 22nd**



Ms. Gauthier has a split grade 3/4 class, so it has been decided that they will go Skiing @ Troll and **WILL NOT** be going swimming or skating with the Primary classes this year.

## IMPORTANT:

**Non-Instructional Day**

**Friday, January 30th**

**NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**  
**STAFF ONLY**

## BACKPACK BUDDIES

Please remember to return your backpacks from the Backpack Buddy Program



## Library Books

Please look around your house, **bed-rooms, vehicles and backpacks** to see if there is any library books.

There is quite a few missing library books.

Thank you,  
Ms. Sumner



## Lunch Time Stars



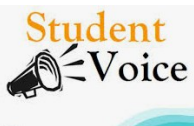
At lunch time we are focusing on star behaviour. Students are stars when they stay in their seats, listen to the adults, eat quietly and do a quiet activity when they finish eating. There is a draw at the end of each month for prizes for all the lunch stars. The Lunch Time Stars for December were **Mario Lawrence, Barrett McKelvie, Alex Cunningham, Mason Long** and **Kylie Mighton**.

## BLAZERS

Congratulations to our Accepting BLAZERS students; **Reed Clegg, Ethan Clegg, Brayley O'Flynn, Kalyssa Butt** and **Murphy Young**. They were recognized at our December Assembly for being Accepting students by being kind, including others, and embracing different viewpoints.



The winners of the BLAZERS draw were **Marlon Tataryn** for helping others clean their desks and **Duncan Hawkrigde** for being an enthusiastic snow shoveler! .



## Student Voice update

This term we are looking forward to having a **Board Game** afternoon. We are also going to participate in **Real Acts of Caring** Week, Feb. 8 to 13 for the first time. When we do acts of caring we take care of others and we feel great too.

## K-2 PRIMARY Skating

Thursdays, Jan 22 & 29 from  
8:45-10:20



## Dakelh Language and Culture

Practice some Dakelh with your children.

### **Sacho Bunun** –

January – time of the big moon

### **Ndi sus tak'ih ho'en** –

I saw three bears.

We had to postpone our January visit with our Carrier Language Teacher, Arlene Horutko until June.

We look forward to Arlene's next visit, April 13 to 16.



### **HOT LUNCH—NO LATE ORDERS**

Jan 21—Panago Pizza  
Feb 5— Hot dogs

Feb 19—Panago Pizza  
Mar 4—Subway



## Online Safety

There are more and more cases of youth being targeted via sandbox games like Roblox and Minecraft. Knowing whether a person is real can be a challenge. Safer Schools Together has some excellent [resources for parents](#) to help their children be digitally responsible. Please visit the following website for resources -

<https://saferschoolstogether.com/resources/parent-caregiver-resources/> Here are two websites where you can check if images are real or AI generated – <https://wasitai.com/> and [Sightengine.com](https://sightengine.com) Remind your children to check in with a trusted adult if they are unsure about anything when they are online.

## UTENSILS:

Please remember to send the required utensils for your children's lunches. Be sure to send **WATER BOTTLES** and **CUTLERY**.

## DIV. 3 NEWS



Ms. Gauthier's class is working with the Baker Creek Enhancement Society to raise salmon.

### **20 eggs have hatched to the "alevins" stage!**

We are hoping that all eggs will hatch and we can have a successful release to the river.



## Catchment Boundary Changes

Please visit the school district website, [www.sd28.bc.ca](http://www.sd28.bc.ca) for information on the catchment boundaries and the process. If you are not in the Barlow Creek catchment area you will need to register at your catchment school beginning Feb. 2. If you wish to remain at Barlow Creek Elementary school you will need to complete an Out of Catchment Request form at your catchment school between February 2 and March 31, 2026. For inquiries about the catchment process or related topics, families can reach out via email at [catchment@sd28.bc.ca](mailto:catchment@sd28.bc.ca).

## BARLOW CREEK PAC

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser  
Delivery 2nd week of February  
(stay tuned for order forms)



PAC meetings are the 3rd  
Wednesday of the month.

Next meeting:

Wed, Jan 21st @6:00—library

A huge thank you to the PAC for their festive McDonald's lunch and Kernel's popcorn. And of course the winter dance before the break.



## Valentine's Day Basket Draw

Guess how many candies are in the jar and win a prize basket

\$1.00 per guess

February 9-11-purchase  
February 13-winner

Thank you for your support



## WINTER CLOTHING DONATIONS

**If any household that has spare / outgrown winter coats and mitts we would gladly accept them for kids to borrow.**



## Student Learning Survey 2025/2026

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in **2026** the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-learning-survey>. Any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link and by clicking on Take the Survey. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be open until May 2, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at (250) 992-5134.



## Student Walking Safety

**As we head into winter with shorter daylight hours, we wanted to share some tips for students walking to bus stops and schools.**

- \* Be visible - Students should have some form of clothing, backpack or other item that is reflective, or some form of light to shine as they walk.
- \* Walk on sidewalks or paths – It is always best to walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- \* Eyes up, phones down – be attentive while walking to avoid tripping and watch for traffic.

**We also ask that all drivers SLOWDOWN while driving in school zones and bus stops and watch for students during your morning and afternoon commute.**

# Memo

December 15, 2025



TO: All School District 28 Families  
FROM: Darren Mann, Manager of Transportation  
RE: Important Reminder Regarding Bus Cancellations and Student Transportation

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move into the winter season, we would like to remind families of the procedures School District 28 follows regarding school bus cancellations. Please review the information below to ensure that you are prepared should service disruptions occur.

➤ **Check for updates**

Parents and students are responsible for checking official district communication channels for any bus cancellations. Notifications are posted on:

- The SD28 Website
- The SD28 Transportation Facebook Page

*Please note: The district is unable to make individual phone calls regarding bus cancellations.*

➤ **Types of cancellations**

- **Cold Weather Cancellation:** Quesnel schools remain open, but all school buses are cancelled for the entire day.
- **Individual Bus Cancellation:** A specific bus (e.g. bus XX) is cancelled for the entire day.

➤ **Individual Bus Cancellation Details**

If a bus is cancelled in the morning:

- It remains cancelled for the entire day.
- Families need to be aware of their assigned bus numbers for both morning and afternoon routes, including transfers.
- There is no replacement bus, including for transfer students.
- Students may only ride the bus they are registered on. They cannot switch to another bus.
- If you drive your child to school, please ensure you can pick them up after school.

➤ **Cold Weather Preparedness**

We ask that all students be dressed appropriately for winter conditions, including:

- Warm coats
- Winter boots or sturdy footwear
- Hats, mittens/gloves, and layers

While buses are heated, delays or emergencies are always possible. Proper winter clothing is essential for student safety.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring safe and consistent transportation for all students.

If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Department at [transportation@sd28.bc.ca](mailto:transportation@sd28.bc.ca) or 250-992-8361.

# Memo



*January 7, 2026*

**TO:** School District #28 Parents/Guardians of students, School District #28 staff

**FROM:** Darren Mann, Manager of Transportation

**RE:** Student Bus Behaviour Expectations – January 2026 Reset

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## Bus Behaviour Expectations – Winter Reset

As we return from winter break, School District 28 is taking time to reset and refresh our student bus behaviour expectations. Our goal is to ensure every child enjoys a safe, respectful, and predictable ride to and from school.

We deeply value our partnership with parents and guardians. When expectations are reinforced at home, and supported on our buses, students feel secure, behaviour is more consistent, and everyone benefits. Supporting these expectations also helps our bus drivers stay focused on the road—where their full attention is needed to keep all students safe.

Transportation is a privilege for students, and it is a privilege we are happy to provide. By working together, we can keep the bus environment positive, safe, and welcoming for everyone.

### Bus Behaviour Expectations

- Sit safely at all times while the bus is moving.
- Speak respectfully, using an appropriate volume and language.
- Respect other riders, the bus, and the driver.
- Follow the driver's directions the first time.
- Keep all food and drinks off the bus.



## What Happens If Expectations Aren't Followed?

- 1** VERBAL REMINDER FROM THE BUS DRIVER
- 2** SECOND REMINDER, WITH THE DRIVER LETTING THE STUDENT KNOW THEY WILL RECEIVE A "WHITE, PINK, OR YELLOW SLIP."

## Understanding the Slips

<b>WHITE</b>	<b>Reminder Only</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Several reminders were needed and behaviour did not stop.</li><li>• Manager logs the incident, informs the Principal, and emails the parent.</li></ul>
<b>PINK</b>	<b>Step 1: First Written Warning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Behaviour continued after reminders.</li><li>• Manager calls parents; Principal may be notified.</li></ul>
<b>YELLOW</b>	<b>Step 2: Suspension from Bus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ongoing or serious behaviours (e.g., fighting, vaping, unsafe actions).</li><li>• Manager calls parents and the Principal; a 5-day suspension is issued. A meeting may be required before returning.</li></ul>

Thank you for supporting a safe and respectful transportation system. Please take a few minutes to review these expectations with your child before Monday, January 12, 2026. By working together, we help keep our buses safe and our drivers focused—ensuring a smooth and positive ride for all students.

January 16, 2026



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our students in grade 3-7 will be skiing and snowboarding on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>. It should be a fun and exciting couple days at the hill. In preparation for the upcoming ski and snowboard days, please take note of the following:

- Please ensure your child has enough warm clothes (toques, mitts, winter coat, snow pants, long johns, sweater, etc.). It can be quite cold at the top of the hill. It is better to pack too many items than too few.
- It is recommended that your child brings extra clothes should some of their clothes get wet (extra socks, shirt/sweater, etc.).
- Please make sure your child brings an adequate lunch. There is a concession as well.
- Students who are on the lunch program will have a lunch that they will bring with them.
- We will be leaving the school for the hill at about 8:30 each morning. If a student is late, they will unfortunately have missed their ride. Please ensure that your child is on time for school.
- We will be returning to the school by approximately 4:15 pm each day. Please be at the school by these times to pick up your child.
- We have talked with the students about our expectations and our rules for when they are at the hill. Staff from the ski hill will also be giving a similar talk at the lodge prior to students going out on the hill. Students know that they will lose the privilege of skiing or snowboarding for the remainder of the day (and possibly the remaining ski day) if they have not followed the ski hill and school's rules for the day (no jumps, no skiing alone, no bush trails, being on time for their lesson, etc.). The staff at Troll is very clear about these rules and our school district is able to participate in the ski program because everyone is understanding of safety when out on the hill.

We are looking forward to two great days of skiing and snowboarding. Please contact the school if you have any questions about the upcoming trip.

Thank you,

Ms. Danuser – Principal

# 20 APPS PARENTS & CARERS NEED TO KNOW

[www.SocialWorkersToolbox.com](http://www.SocialWorkersToolbox.com)



## Snapchat

Messages and photos disappear. Children can be pressured to send images because they believe they will not be saved. Location sharing can show where a child is in real time.



## Roblox

Although it looks like a children's game, it includes chat features. Children can be contacted by strangers and slowly groomed through friendly game play.



## Kik Messenger

Accounts can be anonymous. It is often used to move conversations away from apps parents may check.



## Fortnite

Voice chat allows children to talk to strangers during games. Language and behaviour are often inappropriate.



## TikTok

Children can see adult content, receive sexual comments, and be contacted by strangers. Live videos allow real-time interaction, which can quickly become unsafe.



## Telegram

Messages and groups are encrypted, making them difficult to monitor. It is used to share sexual images, harmful material, and to keep conversations hidden from adults.



## Hoop

The app connects directly to Snapchat and encourages children to add new contacts quickly, including people they have never met.



## Reddit

Children can easily access sexual, violent, or extreme material through posts and comments.



## Instagram

Messages allow strangers to contact children directly. Many children run secondary accounts that parents do not know about. There is strong pressure around appearance and popularity.



## OmeTV

Random video chats with strangers. No effective safeguarding. Sexual content and adult behaviour are common. Children have no control over who appears on screen.



## LiveMe

Children can broadcast themselves live to anyone watching. Viewers can comment in real time, including adults.



## BeReal

The app prompts children to take photos instantly, which can lead to oversharing without thinking about safety.



## WhatsApp

Private chats and group chats are often used for school or friendship groups, but bullying, exclusion, and sharing of images can happen quickly and spread widely.



## Yubo

The app is designed to meet new people. Children can live stream and chat with strangers, which can quickly become sexual or exploitative.



## Calculator+

These apps look like calculators but are used to hide photos, videos, and messages from parents and carers.



## Twitch

Children watch and interact with live streamers through chat, which often includes adults and unmoderated comments.



## Discord

Children join private chat servers linked to gaming or interests. These spaces are often unmoderated and can include adults, sexual content, or harmful language.



## Monkey

Children are placed into random video chats with people they do not know. They have no control over who appears on screen.



## YouTube

Children can be exposed to adult content through suggested videos, comments, and live streams, even when watching innocent clips.



## Bumble

This is a dating app. Despite age limits, some under-18s access it to talk to adults looking for relationships.





# StrongStart

A **FREE** Parent & Child participation program for **0-5 yr olds**



**Join the fun at a StrongStart centre!**  
**You and your child will make new friends, play, create art, go to the gym, sing songs, engage with stories, and so much more!**

**Drop in available at:**

<b>Baker StrongStart</b>	<b>Mon-Fri</b>	<b>8:30-11:30am</b>
<b>Barlow Creek StrongStart</b>	<b>Mon-Thurs</b>	<b>8:15-11:15am</b>
<b>Bouchie Lake StrongStart</b>	<b>Mon-Fri</b>	<b>8:15-11:15am</b>
<b>Dragon Lake StrongStart</b>	<b>Mon-Fri</b>	<b>8:30-11:30am</b>

**Please contact Ms. Cari to learn which days have openings (250-747-2142)**

*The school district operates 4 StrongStart BC early learning centres that provide **free**, school-based, high quality early learning programs for children aged 0-5 years old who are accompanied by a parent or caregiver. At StrongStart you and your child will have opportunities to play, make new friends, create art, go to the gym, sing songs, engage with stories and so much more!*

*Feel free to drop in to:*

<i>Baker StrongStart</i>	<i>Monday to Friday</i>	<i>8:30am-11:30am</i>
<i>Barlow Creek StrongStart</i>	<i>Monday to Thursday</i>	<i>8:15am-11:15am</i>
<i>Bouchie Lake StrongStart</i>	<i>Monday to Friday</i>	<i>8:15am - 1:15am</i>
<i>Dragon Lake StrongStart</i>	<i>Monday to Friday</i>	<i>8:30am-11:30am</i>



## Safe & Caring School Environment

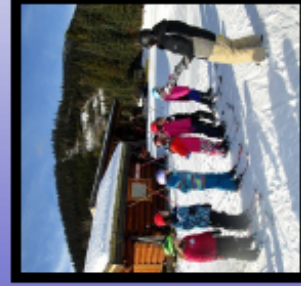
Unacceptable behaviour that is **NOT** tolerated in any activity sponsored by, organized by or participated in by the school regardless of the time or place:

- Bullying, cyberbullying (during & after school hours)
- Retaliation against those reporting bullying
- Harassment, intimidation
- Threatening or violent behaviours
- Theft and vandalism
- Intoxicating or illegal substances
- Weapons or replica (toy) weapons
- Misuse of technology (personal electronic devices, computers, internet)
- Intruders or trespassers – **visitors must first report to the office**

### Notification

As circumstances warrant, school staff have a responsibility to inform:

- Parents of students engaged in major and unsafe behaviours
- Parents of students on the receiving end
- Senior Administration, School Counselor, RCMP, Threat/Risk Assessment Team



## Inappropriate Behaviours

At Barlow Creek School, consequences for inappropriate behaviour are applied in a fair manner, respecting rights, responsibilities, age, maturity, special needs, and other factors relevant to the situation. We aim to use restorative, rather than punitive measures.

Inappropriate behaviours are those that do not follow the school expectations or beliefs and:

- Interfere with the learning of others
- Interfere with an orderly school
- Are unsafe.

May include:

- Rudeness, swearing*
- Hands-on, fighting (or play fighting)*
- Defiant behaviour,*
- Throwing objects (rocks, sticks, snow, etc.)*
- Lack of respect for others (teasing/name-calling)*
- Unauthorized leaving of school grounds*
- Other behaviours that disrespect Self, Others, and the Environment*

Consequences May Include:

- Review of expectations*
- Restitution and restorative measures (apologies, actions to right wrongs)*
- Informing and/or meeting with parents*
- Time-out, removal from activities, loss of privileges*
- Development of behaviour plans*
- Out of school or in school suspensions*
- Working Team Meeting (Consultation with parents, Senior Administration, school staff, RCMP, etc., depending on the severity of the offence).*

Barlow Creek Elementary

Phone: 250-992-5134

Fax: 250-992-3146

Web Site: [barlowcreek.sd28.bc.ca](http://barlowcreek.sd28.bc.ca)



'A Great Place to Learn and Grow'

## Barlow Creek Elementary



## Code of Conduct

2025-2026

## Code of Conduct

In the Barlow Creek Learning Community, we are committed to developing competent thinkers who are creative, flexible, self-motivated, health-conscious citizens with a positive self-image.

The school has a strong rural history that has developed over the years because of everyone's commitment to our children. Parents are involved and supportive. Teachers are committed to fostering a sense of belonging to create a warm culture and increase the frequency of pro-social interactions among students, staff, and families. Continuous school improvement is achieved by communication, collaboration, and in respecting people, their needs and their feelings.

## Purpose

The purpose of Barlow Creek's Code of Conduct is to establish and maintain a safe, caring, and orderly school that will enable purposeful learning and positive social development for all students.

## BC Human Rights Code

At Barlow Creek Elementary School, we believe that all children have the right to learn in a safe, caring and orderly environment. A calm, safe, compassionate environment supports developing positive personal relationships. We promote the values expressed in the **BC Human Rights Code** respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law—prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, physical or mental disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

## Personal Electronic Device Policy

Ministry and District policy restricts the use of personal electronic devices\* in schools. Students are expected to store their personal electronic devices in their backpack or leave them at home for the entire school day. This includes the use of personal electronic devices during recess and/or lunch.

**The following procedure will be used for violations of these expectations:**

**STEP 1:** Hand into office, returned at end of day.

**STEP 2:** Device to office and parent will need to pick it up end of the day.

**STEP 3:** Device Plan - device into a locked cabinet each morning and picked up at the end of the day (created with student, family, Principals; defined duration)

**REFUSAL** = move to step 3, then to In-School Suspension

**\*\*Personal Electronic Internet-Connected Devices\*** include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, computers, portable game systems).



## Code of Conduct Expectations

At Barlow Creek Elementary School, appropriate behaviours are a part of our **BLAZERS** positive behaviour system. Influenced by Indigenous ways of knowing, Metis values and learner traits, students and staff worked together to develop the behaviours for **BLAZERS**.

Daily recognition of the behaviours in **BLAZERS** allows a common language and understanding of the expected behaviours at school.

**Barlow BLAZERS are:**

**Brave** — take chances, try new things, and persevere when faced with challenges

**Learners** — deep thinkers and ask questions to further understanding and show their learning in a variety of ways.

**Accepting** — be kind and include others, embrace different view points.

**Zippy** — enthusiastic and active, excited about learning and have a positive attitude.

**Earthly** — take care of the environment, only use what you need, and be a good citizen.

**Responsible** — make good choices and do the right thing.

**Self-aware** — understand yourself, regulate your emotions, and take care of your mind, body, and heart.