



ELK LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL

"A community of lifelong learners committed to continuous improvement"



NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER, 2009

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to the 2009 - 2010 school year!

It's wonderful to be back. I'm looking forward to another exciting and rewarding year at Elk Lake Public School. I'm especially looking forward to working with you throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to call the school if I can be of assistance.

Staffing for this year is as follows: Diane Mullin (JK-Gr 4 & Core French), Mark Milton (Gr 5-8), Renee DeSerres (Music/Classroom teacher), Jim Bott (Principal/SERT), Debbie Veerman (school secretary), Michelle Rodrigue (head custodian) and Kathy Howe (custodian). We are pleased to have Ms. DeSerres on a half time basis this year. We will continue to provide the best opportunities for your children to grow socially, academically and physically.

Please read your handbook/calendar carefully and refer to it regularly.

If your child is going to be absent from school please call before 9:00 a.m. (678-2229) and let the secretary know.

We are sending home a package with your child that will contain a great variety of information. Please read the information and respond where required and return all forms to the school by September 18, 2009.

James S. Bott
Principal

District School Board Ontario North East Bus Policy (bright yellow pamphlet)

This pamphlet outlines expectations for student behaviour while on the bus on a school day or for any school trip. It also includes procedures that the driver and principal **must** follow should students misbehave on the bus. Please go over it with your child/ren so that there will not be any surprises should a 3-day, 8-day or indefinite suspension from the bus be given. Please return the slip indicating that the rules and procedures were discussed. **Please note: ALL students must return the signed bus pamphlet slip in order to be allowed to travel on school buses for school trips, swimming, field trip, etc.**

It is also important to note that students will only be allowed a temporary change in bussing arrangements if there is a serious emergency and the request is approved by the Director of Education. Parents are responsible for transportation to birthday parties, friends' houses, sleepovers, etc.

Technology Use Agreement (for computer and internet use)

These contracts are kept on file for the duration of your child's education at this school; therefore, only new students and those entering JK will receive them. Students will not be allowed on the internet until the forms are returned and then only in the presence of a teacher. While the primary children may not necessarily be using the Internet, it is a good idea to discuss the responsibility of using computers and the proper care of them and to have them sign the contracts agreeing to that responsibility. These agreements should be returned to the classroom teacher as soon as possible.

District School Board Ontario North East Policies

There are a number of policies that relate directly to our students. Please review the listing in our 2009-2010 Handbook/Calendar. If you would like hard copies of this information please contact the school and we will be happy to create the copies for you.

School Council

Nomination forms are included in your package. Please consider being a member. Educational issues, board policies, school operations and curriculum will be discussed. Your input into the operation of the school would be greatly appreciated. Nomination forms are due back by September 14th.

Breakfast Program

Our Breakfast Program will reconvene on Monday, August 31st. Please sign and return the permission form included in your package if you would like your child/ren to participate in this program.

School Supplies

DSBONE supplies all of the necessary supplies that the students should need. Your child may want his/her own pencil crayons. Parents, please provide your child with proper indoor shoes with light coloured soles.

Milk Program

A milk order form is included in your package today. You may order white or chocolate milk by the week or by the month. The cost is \$0.75 for a 250 ml container. Extra milk will be available on Friday's if students would like to purchase it.

Rules and Behaviour

We will review playground rules, school and bus behaviour with all pupils early in the year. The focus will be to create a safe learning environment for all pupils. Disregard for these rules will have consequences.

Family Wall

We would once again like to designate an area in our school to display pictures of our families. We want every family to be in this display as one of our goals is to promote and encourage a community of lifelong learners. We would like to take a digital picture of your family when you come to the barbeque on September 19th. These pictures need not be formal, in fact, a casual family grouping is preferred. If you are unable to attend the barbeque and have a current family picture (digital or otherwise) that you could send to the school, we would appreciate that as well.

Character Education

We will continue to have a monthly focus on qualities that enhance character. The focus for September is **Courage**. We hope to encourage character building through discussion, modeling and praise for demonstration of these qualities. We certainly appreciate your encouragement of your children's efforts to be polite, put forth a good effort and remember the rules. Together we can all help to build character.

Permission to Publish Student Pictures

The local reporters often visit our school and take pictures of our students. We request your permission to use your child's picture in the newspaper. Please complete the permission form and return it to the school by September 18th.

Emergency Forms

The emergency form **must** be completed and returned to the school by September 18th.

Student Accident Insurance

An IAP Kids Plus pamphlet has been sent home with all students. As usual, parents are required to make their own arrangements with the insurance provider.

Student Agendas

Students in all grades will again be using agendas. This is a form of daily communication between the home and school and is also a means of teaching organizational skills to students. We need your support in making this process work. Thank you, in advance, for checking the book each night for homework or notes, etc. Please sign/initial the agenda each night.

Snacks

The school will be offering a variety of nutritious snacks available for sale for \$0.50 and \$1.00. These snacks will be available from 10:40 - 11:00 a.m. and from 1:00 - 1:20 p.m. and will begin on September 8th.

School Doors

Just a reminder to all (and to anyone new to the school), that all outside doors will be locked at our school throughout the day, in order to ensure the safety of all students and staff. Please use the buzzer at the back entrance (near the basketball court) to be admitted during normal school operating hours. Please rest assured that all of our locked doors open from the inside, so there is no danger to your children in the event of a fire or any other emergency. We also request that you not drive your vehicle onto school property during school hours, again to ensure student safety.

Playground Equipment

Hopefully our new playground equipment will be installed this week and the pupils will get a lot of use out of it before winter.

International Plowing Match

We will be travelling to the International Plowing Match in Earlton on Wednesday, September 23rd. We will require volunteers to accompany our students. If you are able to help out in this regard please contact the school as soon as possible. You are required to have a current police check. If you don't have one we can assist you in this endeavour, however, it does take a couple of weeks to process.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 11 - Hat Day**
- **September 14 - School Council Nominations due**
- **September 18 - Welcome Back Barbeque at 12:00 p.m.**
Return all signed forms to school
Family Photo 'shoot'
- **September 24 - Terry Fox Run**
- **September 25 - Professional Activity Day**
(A holiday for students)

