



Federal Public School

September 2, 2009 Newsletter

From the Principal's Desk,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our staff and students from summer holidays. Returning to school is an exciting time for many students as they become reacquainted with old friends and meet new ones. A very special welcome is extended to our new Junior Kindergarten students. I know that sending little ones off to school for the first time can be very difficult for moms and dads, but JK students always settle into routines in no time and meet many new friends.

With the start of the school year, many parents wonder how they can support their child's education at home. One of the best supports you can provide for your child is to read with them for at least 20 minutes a day. Modeling an interest in literacy will demonstrate to your child that reading is important and will provide you with special time with one another.

I am looking forward to working with you this school year!

Terry McMillan

Balanced Day Schedule

We would like to remind parents that Federal PS is on a balanced day schedule. This timetable divides the day into 3 large instructional blocks with a nutrition break at 10:40 and lunch break from 1:00-1:40. When packing student lunches, please include a healthy snack such as fruit and vegetables for the nutrition break. Traditional lunch items such as sandwiches and soup will be eaten during the 1:00 lunch period. Regular healthy eating notices will be sent home to assist parents in planning snacks and lunches for students. Research indicates that students on balanced day schedules are more attentive, eat more of their lunches and are better behaved in school.

Safe Arrival Policy

It is very important that we know the whereabouts of your children every day that they are expected to be in school. Please call the school at 567-5288 if your child(ren) will not be at school. A message may be left on the answering machine should no one pick up the phone in person. You can also email Mrs. Hack at lorraine.hack@dsb1.edu.on.ca. If you do not call the school to inform us of your child's absence, we must place a call to your work or home number to check on their status. This information is recorded in our daily attendance logs. Thanks for your support of the safe arrival policy.

District School Board Ontario North-East Bus Policy

Riding on the school bus is a privilege provided by District School Board Ontario North-East. With privileges come rules. Included in the packages sent home with students is a pamphlet outlining expectations for student behavior on the bus. It also includes procedures that the driver follows should students misbehave on the bus. Please read over the pamphlet and discuss the bus rules with your child(ren). All students must return the signed form in order to participate in school trips as well as to ride the bus to and from school. Even if your child walks to school, we still require a signed form.



Character Education

As part of our character education program, we discuss different character traits each month. During the month of September, our focus will be on citizenship. Please discuss with your child what it means to be a good citizen. Later this month, each class will select a good citizen to be recognized at the office and during our next assembly.

New Bus Loading Zone/Parent Parking

We are very excited to have a new bus loading zone and parking lot at our school! With buses no longer loading along Tweedsmuir (directly in front of the school), parents are now able to pick up and drop off their child there. This will greatly help to address traffic congestion during bus loading times. Please do not park in the bus turnaround (bus loading zone signs will be posted there shortly). Also, it is very important that school staff (secretary or bus duty teachers) be made aware if your child is not taking the bus for any reason. This will avoid us holding buses looking for missing children.

Terry Fox Walk

During the afternoon of Friday September 11th, students and staff will walk to Civic to participate in our Terry Fox Walk. We are asking that each student bring in a twoonie on this day as a donation to support cancer research. Your support of this worthy cause is much appreciated!

International Plowing Match

On Thursday September 24th, staff and students will be bussed to Earlton to visit the International Plowing Match. Transportation and admission costs are being funded by District School board Ontario North East and the Frog's Breath Foundation. A large number of parent volunteers are needed to adequately supervise our children. If you are able to volunteer on that day, please let us know. Admission for volunteers is also free. A permission form will be sent home shortly.

Open House/BBQ

Our annual open house/BBQ will occur during the evening of September 23rd. This will be a free BBQ for parents and students. It is a wonderful opportunity to visit your child's class and meet the teaching staff. More information will be sent home shortly. Mark the date in your calendar!



Labour Day Holiday

There will be no school for students on Monday September 7th due to the Labour Day holiday.

Playground Rules

When children have difficulty cooperating in the playground, they are reminded to follow three steps. These are: *1. tell the other student to 'stop'. 2. Walk away. 3. Report the matter to a teacher.* Following these steps can help to prevent problems from becoming more serious. Please encourage your child to follow these steps when problems in the playground occur. This will help to teach them to problem solve independently without having to resort to teacher intervention for minor issues.

Emergency Information Forms/Student Verification Forms

It is essential that we keep our contact information current so that we have accurate information should an emergency arise. Please help us by filling in these forms and sending them back to the school by Friday September 4th. Should your address or telephone number change throughout the school year, promptly notifying the school would be appreciated.

Hot Dog Days

Beginning Friday September 4th, hot dogs will be sold on Fridays of each week. The cost for each hot dog is \$1.50.

Milk Program

We are delighted to be able to offer your children the ever popular milk program. We would like to thank Mrs. Hack for taking time out of her busy schedule to arrange this for the students. Money is collected on the Tuesday of each week to provide milk for the following week. Milk orders will be collected on September 8th to begin the milk program on Tuesday the 15th. The cost is 75 cents per carton (\$3.75 per week). Participation in the milk program is voluntary.



Wednesday Pizza Days

Every Wednesday our school will be ordering pepperoni pizza from Dino's to raise funds for school activities. Each slice will be sold for \$1.75 (our prices have increased slightly from last year due to increased costs) We ask that students make every effort to bring the money in on Tuesdays (the day before) so that we have time to put the order together. We can usually accept last minute orders Wednesday morning, but your help in sending the money in Tuesdays will greatly assist us. Pizza Wednesdays will begin on Wednesday September 9th. Thanks to Rob Slote for helping with pizza days!



Homework



Students in grades 1 – 6 will have an agenda to record their daily assignments in.

Please ask to see it every school night and insist that your child brings it home.

Good work habits are one of the greatest indicators of success in school and in later life. Organization and routines are crucial for most students to have success. This is also a good way for you and your child's teacher to communicate with each other.

PA Day

Friday September 25th is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no school for students. Teachers and Educational Assistants will be attending workshops.

Emergency Procedures

Our school has a number of emergency procedures in place which are reviewed regularly with staff. Included in our procedures are lockdown plans for the school should we feel there is a threat to student safety and have to secure students in designated locations. This year we will be practicing our lockdown drills with staff and students. We will discuss the drill beforehand with students, but your help would be appreciated in reminding your children that when any emergency procedure is initiated, they must follow teacher direction immediately. Also, if students have important information regarding the crisis, they must disclose this to a teacher.

Tips to Help Your Child Learn to Read- Developing Oral Language

- Tell family stories about yourself, your child's grandparents and other relatives
- Talk to your child as much as possible about things you are doing and thinking
- Ask your child lots of questions (i.e. "how do you know that?")
- Encourage your child to tell you what he/she thinks and feels
- Ask your child to tell you about his/her day
- Be patient! Give your child time to find the word he/she wants to use.
- Sing songs, such as the alphabet song, and recite nursery rhymes, encouraging your child to join in.
- Play rhyming and riddle games

Important Dates

Friday September 4th- Hot Dog Days begin

Monday September 7th- Labour Day holiday

Tuesday September 8th- Mrs. Hack will begin taking milk orders (milk will be delivered the following week)

Wednesday September 9th- Pizza Wednesdays begin

Friday September 11th- Terry Fox Walk (afternoon)

Wednesday September 23rd- Open House/BBQ

Thursday September 24- International Plowing Match

Friday September 25th- PA Day (no school for students)

Please visit our school board's website for information on various school related policies.



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