



Northwood Public School

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“Northwood School, Where We Light the Way With Reading” OCTOBER 2009 EDITION

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Our first month of school has been very busy. We had to reorganize some of our classes, but everyone has been busy learning. We would like to welcome Ms. Nauta, who is with us every morning teaching grade 5. Our total enrollment is now at 714 students. Co-curricular activities have begun as well. Our Cross Country team



members have been practising under the direction of Mrs. Brause, Mrs. Valente, and Mr. Cushing. Students have been practicing at lunch and recess with our city meet set for October 9th

and the Board meet on October 16th. Ms. Potrebic and Mr. Paul have been working hard with the boys Soccer team and are waiting to find out about the play offs. Mme. Hodgson, Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Shaw have been working with the girls' team. Thanks to these staff members for coaching these teams. Mrs. Kotevski continues to train, schedule and work with our playground coaches. These are grade 5 students and you will hear more about this in subsequent newsletters. Mrs. Borland has also begun band at lunch once per week. Interested students will have small group practices and hopefully our band will perform at upcoming assemblies.

WALKATHON/READATHON

Our second annual walkathon/readathon is approaching. The date set for this event is Friday, October 23rd. The goal is



not only to raise funds for the school, but to do it in a healthy and educational way. Those families who prefer to make a one time donation can sponsor their child in that amount and receive a tax receipt. We will not be selling items this year such as chocolate bars or cookie dough. Prizes will be awarded to students for pledges in increments of \$10.00. More information will follow.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SELL MILK AT LUNCH

Can you help us out? We are looking for parents to help us by selling milk, juice and water to our students at lunch. We need someone from 11:10 until 11:25 each day. If you are interested in assisting in this way one or more days of the week, please call the office and leave your name and the day(s) you would be available. If we are unable to find volunteers, we may need to stop selling drinks at lunch. Thank you in advance for your support.



PREVENTION IS THE BEST MEDICINE

We all want to enjoy a safe, productive and enjoyable school year, and staying healthy will be an important factor in our success. Let's fight germs together! Bugs which cause the common cold, influenza or even H1N1 (swine flu) can spread easily in a place like a school.

We recommend that you please keep children home when they demonstrate symptoms such as high fever, persistent coughing, runny nose (if they can not blow or wipe properly) or diarrhea.

PITA LUNCH DAY

On Friday, October 9th, the grade 8 students are sponsoring a Pita Lunch. Order forms went home on Monday, September 28th and must be returned with money no later than Friday October 2nd. Our lunches this year will support the grade 8 trip and graduation.

STUDENT AGENDAS/PLANNERS AND PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

Agendas are still available for \$5.00 for any student in grades 3 to 8, who has not yet purchased one.

Within the Agenda is the Northwood School Parent/Student Handbook. We ask that parents go over this with their child. It contains the Northwood School Code of Conduct, answers many questions you may have about school activities, and outlines procedures. If your child does not purchase an agenda or is in grade 2 or below, they will receive a separate Parent/Student Handbook for you to go over. A sheet will be sent home soon that is to be signed and returned to the school signifying that you and your child have read and discussed the handbook and understand its content. (Grade 1 to 8) These need to be returned to school by Friday, October 16th. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

TRAFFIC AND SIDEWALKS

The Northwood Community has been working hard to develop safety around the school. We have instituted a new walking procedure where all students will be crossing Longfellow at the corner of Longfellow and Dominion. We will soon have intermediate students who will be working as Safety Patrols at this corner. We are encouraging all parents who have a child that is eligible to take a bus, be allowed to take the bus and not get picked up at the end of the day. It is extremely busy and we have had many close calls already this year. We are also



encouraging students who are walkers, to walk to and from school.

Many parents state that the traffic around the school is too busy for their child to walk. Traffic studies have shown that the traffic increases around school zones because parents are driving their children to school. On P.D. days, there is a lower level of traffic around schools as well as in the summer. During peak travel periods, between 20 and 25% of all traffic on the roads are generated by parents driving their children to and from school. If all students who qualify for the bus take the bus and students who are in the walking areas were to walk, except in emergencies, we would not have the traffic problems that exist around Northwood School.

Please think about this. If you were to walk with your child you would be setting a good example about getting active, not produce greenhouse gases and have some time to talk to your child about their day. Happy Walking.

RIDING BIKES TO SCHOOL

With the nice weather many students are riding their bicycles to school. We certainly think this is a healthy alternative to being driven to school and commend students for this. Our safety concerns however remain. Many students are not wearing helmets when riding their bikes. This is the law for children under the age of 18 to wear a helmet. If students do not wear helmets, we request that they do not ride their bikes to school. Thank you for your support in this matter.



TUMBLEBOOKS

Northwood has renewed their subscription to Tumblebooks, an online collection of animated talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading. Visit tumblebooks at: <http://www.tumblebooks.com/> Our login is northwoodps and our password is books.

GUIDES FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Parents often ask how they can help their child to improve in reading, writing and mathematics. The Ministry of Education has developed a website entitled: ABC, 123. This website provides quick, easy tips on activities and helping children with homework, reading, writing, math, and other topics. The guides contain more tips and activities as well as an overview of the stages children go through as they learn reading, writing and math. All this information is available at:

www.ontario.ca/abc123. These resources are also available in 12 additional languages (Arabic, Chinese simplified, traditional Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Korean, Portuguese, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Urdu and Vietnamese). Check it out.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD BECOME A BETTER READER?



Children of all ages need to see that reading is part of their family's life and that their parents value reading as an important activity. To help foster a love of reading in your

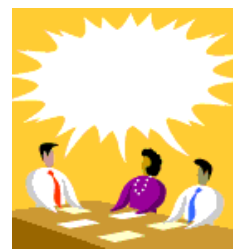
child, they need to see you reading. Pick up a book, magazine or newspaper regularly. If they see you reading, they are more apt to read themselves. Make reading a family affair.

Joining the public library will give you and your child the opportunity to read thousands of books at no cost to you. There are books in various languages, graphic novels, access to computers and the internet along with story groups for young children. Check out the public library today. <http://www.windsorpubliclibrary.com/>

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We recently held our first Northwood School Council meeting of the 2009/2010 school year. We are pleased to see some new parents interested in becoming voting members. School council meetings are open to all parents and

guardians of Northwood School Students, whether you are a voting member or not. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, with our next meeting being on Monday, November 2nd. Please come out and participate in discussions about the school environment and student achievement.



Our chairperson again this year is Karen Wilson. We thank Karen for her continued service to the students of Northwood School.

SETTLEMENT CORNER

How do I apply for Canadian Citizenship?

In order to apply for Canadian citizenship you must be over 18 years of age and have lived in Canada as a Permanent Resident for at least three out of four years (1,095 days) right before the day you apply. In addition, you must know how to speak or write either English or French, which are Canada's two official languages. The time you spent in Canada before you became a permanent resident will be counted as half time if it happened within these four years. Anyone under 18 years of age must be a permanent resident in order to be eligible for citizenship. A three-year length of residency in Canada is not required. In order to apply for citizenship for your child you must be a Canadian citizen or be applying to become a Canadian citizen. If your application is accepted you will have to write a citizenship test if you are between the ages of 18 and 54. Children under 18 years of age and persons over 55 do not have to write the citizenship test. This test is to assess your knowledge of the English or French language. It is also to ensure that you have some general knowledge of Canada's history, geography and political system. The entire process, from application to test, takes 15 - 18 months. For more information, please contact the settlement worker in your school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays or go to (settlement.org) or (cic.gc.ca).