



Northwood Public School

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"Northwood School, Where We Light the Way With Reading" SEPTEMBER 2009 EDITION

WELCOME TO THE 2009/2010 SCHOOL YEAR!



Welcome to all new and returning students and their families to Northwood School! We hope everyone has enjoyed a happy and restful summer. The staff looks forward to meeting everyone. We extend a warm welcome to all new families and hope you will feel comfortable making Northwood your school home. Our enthusiastic and capable teaching and support staff are ready and anticipate a successful and rewarding year with you and your children.

Possible Reorganization: Many schools in the GECD SB have had enrollment changes over the summer. Northwood is one of them. The Board typically assigns teachers for September based on spring projections, and reviews actual enrolment during the first two weeks of September before making final adjustments in staff on September 18. It may become necessary to reorganize some classes and teachers, but we will attempt to do this with as little disruption to the students as possible. Parents' cooperation in helping to explain these changes to children is appreciated, as is your understanding in this matter.

We all anticipate a great year, with many new experiences and challenges. If you are in the school, please feel free to drop by the office to introduce yourself! As always, your comments and concerns are welcome.

Mrs. C. Johnson-Hicks – Principal
Mrs. P. Brause – Vice-Principal

NEW STAFF

We have a number of new staff members joining us at Northwood this fall. We would like to welcome the following staff to Northwood:

Mrs. Brause: Vice-Principal
Mr. Silver: Grade 8

Mrs. Pfaff: Grade 7 & Jr/Int SERR
Mr. Cushing: Grade 6
Mme. Hodgson: French
Mrs. Roncone: JK/SK
Ms. Potrebic: JK/SK
Ms. Wessel: Educational Assistant
Mrs. Dawson: Educational Assistant
Mrs. Johnson: Educational Assistant



MEET THE STAFF

An opportunity to "Meet the Staff" has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd from 5:30 to 6:30. You are welcome to come with your children to meet the staff on an informal basis in the classrooms. This is not parent interview time. Please plan to join us! All of us at Northwood look forward to meeting you!

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. But we can also, quite easily, reduce the chance of transmitting these infections to one another. Encourage your children to wash their hands properly as often as they can, especially after using the bathroom, before eating or whenever they are dirty. Hand sanitizer will be available in common areas throughout the school, but nothing beats good old soap and water. Everyone should cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing. The proper method is known as "the vampire" (cough or sneeze into elbow rather than using hands). Avoid sharing drinking vessels, eating utensils or towels.

We recommend that you please keep children home when they demonstrate symptoms such as high fever or diarrhea.

IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE

ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL



The safety of the students at Northwood School is a priority to the staff as well as to you, the parents. Supervision of students by school staff in the morning begins at 8:15 a.m.

Students are not to be at school before this time. If you bring your child to school prior to 8:15, please remain with them and supervise them until the bell rings at 8:15.

If your child comes to school only in the afternoon, or if they go home for lunch, they should not return to school before 12:00 or as close to 12:15 as possible. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Remember, our goal is to keep our students safe.

ATTENDANCE and SAFE ARRIVALS

Students are expected to be in attendance each day school is in session except for personal illness or emergencies in the family. Children who are continually late or absent lose out on the daily academic learning time. **Attendance is crucial to success in school. Please stress the importance of daily and prompt attendance with your children.**

There is a “**Safe Arrival Policy**” in effect at our school. This is done in an effort to ensure the safety of your children. Parents are required to telephone the school daily if their child is going to be absent or late. (519-969-7610)

- Parents are expected to call the school before 8:30 a.m. to inform the office staff if a student is to be late or absent. Prior to 7:45 a.m. our answering machine will record all calls. (A 24 hour message system is available for your convenience – ext. 1)
- If a student has not arrived when attendance is taken at 8:30 a.m., the office staff will call home. The office staff keeps a daily attendance log of absences and lates.
- If there is no response at home the office staff will phone the parents’ places of employment or emergency contacts until the absence has been explained.

- Students arriving late must report to the office and obtain an admit/late slip before going to class (with a note of explanation). Being on time is an important life lesson that is encouraged.
- Students, who need to be released early for a doctor’s appointment etc., need to bring a note signed by their parent/guardian to the office. Parents need to pick their child up at the office when they arrive.

STUDENT AGENDAS/PLANNERS AND PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

Each year, student agendas are available for purchase. The total cost of the agendas is approximately \$10.00, but with the School subsidizing the cost they are available to students for \$5.00. Research has shown that teaching students to use an agenda or planner at a young age assists them in developing organizational skills which are essential in the working world today. We encourage all students from grade 3 to 8, to purchase an agenda.



Within the Agenda is the Northwood School 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, 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. There will be a sheet to sign and return to school signifying that you and your child have read the handbook and understand its content. These need to be returned to school by Friday, October 2nd. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

MILK, JUICE AND WATER

Milk, juice and water will be available for students to purchase at lunch on a daily basis. Milk (white or chocolate) and juice is \$0.75 each and water is \$0.50 each. **If you are interested in assisting us by coming in once a week at lunch to sell milk, please call the school. Thank you.**



LIBRARY CORNER



We have been busy working at preparing the library for our Northwood students. Book exchange will begin for grades 1 - 8 later this month.

We kindly ask that you review the importance of placing Northwood library books in a safe place in your home. Establish a specific location so that books may not become lost. Your child usually has 1 week to read their library book and may renew their book if required for additional reading time. We thank you for your continued support of our library program.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES PROGRAM

Each year the Greater Essex County District School Board offers International Language Classes for pupils from grades 1-8. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to learn a second or third language. There is no cost. Last year the following languages were offered: Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Urdu, Mandarin, Punjabi, Korean, Serbian, Bengali and Vietnamese. However, any language class can be established with a minimum of 25 students and an available instructor. Classes will be offered on Saturday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. Transportation is not provided. The three centers for the classes are Prince Edward, Marlborough and Forest Glade schools. Once classes have been determined, parents will be informed of the location of your child's class the first week in October.

Registration forms are available from your home school or on the Board's Website at <http://www.gecdsb.on.ca/programs/intlLang/>

All registration forms must be returned to your school's secretary by September 21, 2009.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Many parents have called or come in to ask about volunteering in the school. If you would like to volunteer, please call the school and leave your name and phone number. Mrs. Brause, the vice-principal, will call you back as soon as she possibly can with information.

TRIPLE P – POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

Whatever your parenting needs, no matter how simple or complex, Triple P has the information, seminars, course or trained practitioner to help you. Triple P gives you clear and simple strategies to turn problems around and also to prevent problems from developing in the first place. As one of the few evidence-based parenting programs available worldwide, with over 25 years of proven clinical research to back it up, you can be sure Triple P works for the majority of families.

Triple P Parenting seminars will be offered at Taylor School on September 23, October 21 and November 18. Parents from our school are more than welcome to join them.

If you are interested in having a brochure sent home to register for any of the Triple P events or to get more information, send a note with your child and we will send one home.

SCHOOL SETTLEMENT WORKER

The Settlement Worker in Schools program provides settlement services to newcomer families using the school as the primary point of contact with the families.

Northwood School is pleased to have Heidi Liu with us every Monday and Elham Awad here on Thursdays. They will be available for parents to contact with questions and they will be contacting families new to Northwood, who have been in Canada for less than two years initially, and may be contacting others who have been here for less than five years.

Parents are welcome to call Heidi or Elham at the school on Mondays or Thursdays (519-969-7610) or at the main office anytime (519-258-4076 ext. 402) if you would like to meet with them to discuss any of the services provided.

NORTHWOOD PENS

Northwood Pens are available for purchase at the office for \$1.00 if you are interested. Please see Mrs. Ayres.

