

Port Weller Public School



273 Parnell Rd., St. Catharines, L2M 1W4
905-934-3322
<http://www.dsbnet.edu.on.ca/Schools/PortWeller/default.htm>

SEPTEMBER, 2011
Ms. H. Abbey, Principal

From the Administration

Dear Parents:

On behalf of the entire staff at Port Weller, I would like to extend a warm 2011-12 school-year welcome to all families. As someone new to the school, I am very impressed with the caring and inviting atmosphere that permeates throughout the Port Weller community. This, of course, can be directly attributed to the commitment, dedication, and cooperative efforts of the staff, students, and parents at our school. I am looking forward to working with you and your children to continue to promote and foster a rich learning environment.

As parents, you play the most influential role as your child's first and most important teacher. The development of a positive attitude toward learning, and success in literacy, math, and thinking skills are enhanced when the home and school work together as partners in education. Research clearly indicates that children learn best when parents are actively involved in their child's education. I thank you in advance for your involvement and commitment to your child's learning.

The staff at Port Weller continue to be committed to support this partnership through effective communication with our community. In order to keep you informed we will:

- Send home monthly school newsletters at the beginning of each month (we are going to attempt to send an electronic version of the office newsletter through email for those families interested),
- Send home parent/student information outlining school policies, programmes, and routines,
- Conduct information sessions and Open Houses,
- Communicate with parents regarding the progress of their children by means of telephone calls, letters, personal conferences, agendas, and report cards,
- Continue to support and encourage full participation in our School Advisory Council (WE NEED MEMBERS – please contact the office for more information),
- Encourage you to communicate with the school. Please contact us to share your ideas, questions, concerns, or comments. We look forward to hearing from you,
- Keep our school website up to date (www.dsbnet.edu.on.ca/Schools/PortWeller/)

Every day at Port Weller we will continue to promote and develop social and interpersonal skills, through what we call, *character education*. This is a whole-school effort to create a community in which positive attitudes, values, and behaviours are fostered. These qualities will be promoted explicitly, modelled, taught, expected, celebrated, and continuously practised in every day actions. Character education is the promotion of globally desirable qualities such as respect, responsibility, and integrity. We will be communicating regularly with you, the parents, in terms of what type of character education we are working on at school and how you can help at home. Your support in this area is necessary and valued. Character education is a very important part of creating a happy, healthy school to learn and to grow in.

I would like to welcome back the returning staff to Port Weller and extend a special welcome to new staff members: Ms. Violante – French and Ms. A. Sample – Youth Counsellor
Welcome back, as well, to our trustee Alex Bradnam and our Superintendent of Schools, Sue Mark.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all of our teachers and to our custodial staff who have worked so hard over the summer months preparing the school for our September start-up. The school looks fantastic! A special thank you to Herb and Jane Epp for their efforts this summer. They truly are an example of dedicated, diligent caretakers who truly take pride in our school. Quality education takes a TEAM effort and what a TEAM we have here at Port Weller!

We look forward to meeting you and your family at our Open House and Family Picture Night on Wednesday, September 15.

Yours most sincerely,
Ms. Hilary Abbey

School Organization

The staff has the following assignments for the school year 2011-2012:

Primary Teachers

Mrs. J. Crowther JK/SK. A.M. & P.M.
Ms. T. McCann Grade 1
Mrs. T. Troup Grade 1
Mr. K. S. Dyck Grade 2
Mrs. D. Nesbitt Grade 2/3
Mrs. G. Shaughnessy Grade 3

Junior Teachers

Mr. M. Davidson Grade 4/5
Mrs. K. Flett Grade 5
Mrs. L. Pearson Grade 6

Intermediate Teachers

Mrs. K. Cuttriss Grade 7
Mr. S. Reimer Grade 7/8
Mrs. C. Rosts Grade 8

Additional Staff

Mrs. M. Hobbs Special Needs
Mrs D. Dennis Science Prep
Mrs. K. Koop Music/Prep
Ms. K. Troup LRT/Library
Mrs. M. MacLaughlin LRT
Ms. S. Violante French/Prep

Educational Assistants

Ms. C. Elver
Ms. L. Carruthers
Mrs. M. Lerosé
Mrs. S. Fleming
Mrs. K. Davis

Youth Counsellor:

Ms. A. Sample

Office and Support Staff:

Ms. H. Abbey Principal
Mrs. C. Munn Secretary
Mr. H. Epp Head Caretaker
Mrs. A. Langille Evening Caretaker

Lunchroom Supervisors:

Mrs. D. Winterbottom
Mrs. B. Klassen
Mrs. K. Beaudry

Health Alert / Allergies

We have several children and a staff member in our school who have severe allergies. Some of our students have a very sensitivity that may threaten their lives. This is referred to as Anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a life threatening allergic reaction. It can be triggered by accidentally inhaling, injecting, or absorbing an allergen. Some sources include:

- Foods
- Peanuts
- Insect Stings
- Latex
- Medications

Facts about living with Peanut Allergies:

- only a tiny amount is required to set off a reaction
- some may react to smell alone
- peanuts are in many snack foods
- peanut butter sticks to everything
- first exposure can be fatal
- it is the deadliest allergic reaction

We Need Your Help!

No guarantee can be made about keeping our school peanut free. However, we need your co-operation and request that parents pack peanut- free lunches and snacks. Please do not sent to school any nuts, or nut products, or peanuts and peanut products, or products that state “may contain traces of nuts or peanuts”. **Please teach and remind your child not to share or trade food at any time.**

At this time, we are also instituting other measures to create an appropriate learning environment. We are asking that all food be eaten in the classroom(s) or designated areas, not outside the school or on school busses. We encourage students not to share snacks with others.

I would like to thank you in advance for your co-operation and support in this matter.

Communication

To improve communication we ask all students from **Grade 1 to 8 have an agenda. The cost of the agenda is \$7.00.** In the front of each agenda there is a pouch provided to hold notes and letters of communication home, so please check this pouch from time to time. It is recommended that routines should be established from the start like students putting their agenda in an consistent place where parents can read information coming home from the school.

Students benefit so much when parents and teachers stay in touch! Let’s keep the lines of communication open!

Open House BBQ/Family Photo Night

On the evening of *Thursday, September 15*, there will be an opportunity for parents to visit the school and for students to introduce parents to their teachers. The School Advisory Council will host a BBQ and family photo night from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Food order forms and picture forms will be sent home shortly and all food must be pre-ordered. Teachers will be available in their classrooms to meet with parents from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This is an important time for you to link with the school and make that all important connection between teacher and parent. Due to the volume of people the teachers must meet, we encourage parents to schedule an appointment for in-depth progress reports at a later date. We invite you to visit all the classrooms, library, computer lab, and gymnasium.

Forms, Forms, Forms.....

With today's newsletter, the following are included:

**Student Accident Insurance* information. Please note that the D.S.B.N. does not carry accident insurance for students. If you choose to participate, please return the completed form *directly* to Reliable Insurance. We have not received these forms at the printing of this newsletter. It may or may not be included at this time.

**D.S.B.N. School Year Calendar*

**Lunch Room Application*

**Port Weller School Code of Conduct*

**Acceptable Use Agreement for Student Use of ICT (Information Technologies)*

**Student Data Verification form - please sign*

**Parent Volunteer Form*

**Student Excursion Form*

**School Newsletter via Website return*

PLEASE RETURN ALL THESE FORMS SIGNED IN THE ENVELOPE THEY CAME IN.

School Advisory Council

What is the role of the school council? School councils have been created to enhance students' learning through the co-operative efforts of parents, students, staff members, and others in the community. School councils are presently advisory bodies as stated in the Ministry of Education and Training's Policy/Program Memorandum #122. School Advisory Councils have an important role in the community and in the school. The school has sincerely appreciated the input and support we have received and look forward to working with the School Advisory Council again this year. If you would like to find out more about our school council, **please** attend our first meeting on Tuesday, **September 27th at 6:30 p.m.**

Magazine Subscription Renewals

Yes! We will be offering this service again. Don't renew your magazine subscriptions yet. Remember that all of your renewals or new subscriptions can support our school. Approximately 30% of the cost will go directly to the school to help fund school events, resources, and class trips and you are guaranteed the lowest price! Our QSP Magazine kick off assembly will take place early October. **Funds raised from this fund raiser will go back to the students to reduce the cost of trips, school events, and purchase of new equipment.** Thanks for your support with this great fund raiser!

School Picture Day

This special day has been scheduled for Friday, September 16. Pegasus will again be our photographer. More information will be sent out a week prior to the event.



School Times

- 8:45 a.m. - Student entry
- 8:50-8:55 - Announcements
- 8:55-10:35 - 1st Instructional Block
- 10:35-11:05 - Nutrition/Fitness Break
- 11:05-12:45 - 2nd Instructional Block
- 12:45- 1:35 - Nutrition/Fitness Break
- 1:35-3:15 - 3rd Instructional Block
- 3:15 p.m. - Dismissal

School Traffic

We ask that you obey the following traffic rules:

1. Please obey all **one way**, exit, entrance signs and markings that have been freshly painted on the asphalt entering and leaving the parking lot.
2. Park in the church parking lot if at all possible. A short walk should not be difficult.
3. Do not park in the driveways and handicapped spaces.
4. Do not double park and hem other parents in.
5. Please do not park in the bus loading zone. Bus arrives at 8:30 a.m. and 3:10 p.m.
6. Please feel free to use the bus loading area as a kiss and ride area before and after the above approximate times. Your child can safely walk down the pathway to the yard.
7. Along the fence it now posted for parking for Kindergarten parents only.



As parents, you need to be concerned about the example you set when crossing Parnell Rd.

Please cross with our traffic guard at the intersection of Parnell and Bunting. Please do not stand on the other side of Parnell Rd. and beckon your children to come to you just anywhere on the street or ask your child to go between parked cars in the parking lot to get in the car. Accidents do happen, let's model safe behaviour that keeps our students' safety number 1!

From The Office

Call-in system:

If your son or daughter is ill or away from school for any reason, please call the school office (934-3322) between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Port Weller has voicemail, so calls can be made at any time during the day or evening. We are very conscience of the safety of the students. Regular phoning by parents will inform us immediately of the whereabouts of students not in school, and it will save us time in getting this information. We will call the homes, workplace and, if necessary, the emergency number of parents whose children do not arrive at school and about whom we do not receive a telephone call. **Student**

Verification forms are being sent home with this newsletter. We ask that you make any corrections, sign the back, and return it to the school (even if no corrections are required). We think it is very important that we have the most up-to-date information on your child in case of an emergency. That way we can easily determine changes that need to be made on the board data system.



Custody Issues

If there are any issues concerning the custody of your child(ren), please contact the school every year to advise us of the circumstances. We will also need documentation on file in order to restrict access to your child(ren).

Parent Volunteers

Parents do not forget to complete the parent volunteer form that your children will be bringing home. This will help us develop a data base of volunteers that we can call upon throughout the year!!! **We are desperately seeking volunteers for our Breakfast Program.** Please contact the school office if you think you can help one morning a week from approximately 7:45-8:30 a.m. Many of our children count on this program. Without volunteers, this cannot happen. Thank you

Hepatitis B Immunization for Grade 7 Students

The Hepatitis B immunization program for Grade 7 students will again occur in the schools on Wed., Sept. 14. This vaccine is provided by the Ministry of Health through the Regional Niagara Public Health Department. This vaccine is given in two doses, four months apart. The first dose of the vaccine is given in the fall, mid-September to the end of October and the second dose is provided in the spring. Public Health Nurses from the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program will be arranging school clinics to vaccinate students.

An information package, including a Consent Form, will be sent home with all Grade 7 students to review with their parents.

The students are asked to:

- Return the Consent Form to school on time,
- Eat breakfast/lunch on the day of immunization,
- Wear a short-sleeved shirt,
- "Buddy-up" with a classmate for 15 minutes after and
- Have a positive and mature attitude.

Hepatitis B is a viral disease which causes liver damage. A person can get Hepatitis B through exposure to blood and body fluids of an infected person, for example through shared use of tattoo and body piercing equipment or sexual activity. The 2 doses of vaccine protect individuals from the disease and its consequences.

Grade 8 girls:

A vaccine will be given out to all Grade 8 girls this year on Sept. 14 called HPV (HUMAN PAPILOOMA-VIRUS). Our school health nurse contact, will be in the school on Friday, September 9 to speak to the Gr. 7 and 8 students about the vaccinations.