



# THE TREASURE CHEST



SEPTEMBER 2014

Port Weller Public School

273 Parnell Road, St. Catharines, Ontario, CANADA, L2M1W4 ♦ Phone: 905-934-3322 ♦ Fax: 905-934-2043 ♦ <http://portweller.dsbni.org/> ♦ Principal: Ms. H. Abbey



## Principal's Message

On behalf of the entire staff at Port Weller, I would like to extend a warm 2014-15 school-year welcome to all families. We have many new families joining us this year and I send out an extra special welcome to you. It is my wish that the warm, caring, and inviting atmosphere that permeates throughout the Port Weller Community will do its part to ensure that your entry to Port Weller is a positive one. 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 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 communication at the beginning of each month
- send home parent's/student information outlining school policies, programmes, and routines
- conduct information sessions and open houses
- communicate with parents regarding the process of their children my means of telephone calls, letters, personal conferences, agendas, and report cards
- continue to support and encourage full participation in our **School Advisory Council**
- 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.portweller.dsbni.org](http://www.portweller.dsbni.org))

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, modeled, taught, expected, celebrated, and continuously practiced 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 grow. Our theme to "kick off" this year a Port Weller is "**The Power of ONE**". and we will practice being STAR PIRATES (Showing Tolerance And Respect) in all that we do every day!



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA  
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I would like to welcome back the returning staff to Port Weller and extend a special welcome to new staff members.

Welcome back to our trustee, **Alex Bradman** and to our Superintendent, **Marian Reimer-Friesen**.

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. They truly are an example of dedicated, diligent caretakers who have taken 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 **Silent Auction** on Thursday, Sept. 25th.

Ms. Hilary Abbey

### **School Organization**

The staff has the following assignments for the school year 2014-2015:

Mrs. T. McCann.....JK/SK  
Mrs. S. Di Teodoro.....JK/SK  
Mrs. J. Crowther.....Grade 1  
Mrs. D. Nesbitt.....Grade 2  
Mrs. G. Shaughnessy.....Grade 3/4  
Ms. K. Troup/Mrs.M. MacLaughlin...Grade 4  
Mrs. P. Venneri.....Grade 5  
Mr. K. Dyck.....Grade 6  
Mr. S. Reimer.....Grade 7/8  
Mrs. C. RostsGrade.....7/8  
Mrs. M. Hobbs.....Fundamental Skills  
Mr. J. Clarke.....Library  
Ms. K. Troup /Mrs. M. MacLaughlin.....LRT  
Mrs. J. Foley.....French/Prep  
Mrs. M. Chilcott.....Music

### **Educational Assistants**

Mrs. M. Lerosé  
Mrs. K. Davis  
Mrs. S. Graham  
Mrs. H. McNeil  
Ms. E. Kurucz

### **Early Childhood Educators**

Ms. J. Harper  
Mrs. T. Smith (on maternity leave)  
Ms. N. Ventresca

### **Youth Counsellor:**

Ms. S. Warren

### **Office and Support Staff:**

Ms. H. Abbey ..... Principal  
Mr. J. Clarke ..... Vice Principal  
Mrs. T. Hampson ..... Secretary  
Mr. H. Epp ..... Head Caretaker  
Mrs. J. Epp ..... Evening Caretaker

### **Lunchroom Supervisors:**

Mrs. D. Winterbottom  
Mrs. B. Klassen  
Mrs. K. Beaudry  
Mrs. T. Laing (supply)  
Mrs K. Thompson (supply)

### **Health Alert / Allergies**

We have several children and a staff member in our school who has severe allergies. Some of our students have a high 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

### **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 send 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.

### **Oral Medication!**

If your child requires oral medication during the school day, a **medical administration** form must be filled out by parent and doctor. **Please call the office to have a form sent home OR visit our website where you may print off a form directly from home!**

### **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 a consistent place where parents can read information coming home from the school. **We ask that all parents take the time to read and initial your child's agenda every night.** Together we can ensure that communication to and from school is clear and consistent. Students benefit so much when parents and teachers stay in touch! Let's keep the lines of communication open!

### **Code of Conduct**

The school Code of Conduct is available on our school website. Please visit [www.portweller@dsbn.org](http://www.portweller@dsbn.org). It is expected that all families will review this document. If you require a hard copy, please contact the office.

### **Playground Safety**

For the safety of our students, it is expected that in order to use the playground equipment, footwear must be flat and have a closed toe and heel. Thank you for your support.

### **Physical Education**

Students will be participating in regular physical education classes. Classes are designed to increase the fitness level of our students and encourage a healthy lifestyle. If you wish your child excused for health reasons, please send a note to the teacher. We ask that students have proper footwear to change into for all physical education classes (indoor running shoes). For our older student (gr. 4-8), we also ask that a clean pair of gym clothes (t-shirt and shorts) are available to change into.

The caretakers have worked extremely hard this summer to make our school sparkle and shine. We can show our appreciation for their hard work by ensuring that our students have clean shoes to wear inside the building.



### 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 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 16<sup>th</sup> in the library 5:30-6:00( social/refreshments), 6:00-7:15 (meeting). Childcare will be provided. All parents/family members are welcome!**

### Silent Auction/Open House:

Reminder of our Silent Auction/Open House event. **ALL FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WELCOME!** This event is scheduled for Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 4:30-6:30 (Silent Auction will be open during the day for parents/family members who are unable to attend after school). If you would like to participate, volunteer the night of, and/or donate please contact Jenn at 905-933-6106, [jajandi@brocku.ca](mailto:jajandi@brocku.ca) or simply drop off your item to the office. **Classrooms will be available for parents/family members to visit between 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

### School Times

8:40 a.m.	- outside supervision begins
8:55 a.m.	- student entry
10:40-11:20	- first nutrition/fitness break
1:00- 1:40	- second nutrition/fitness break
3:20 p.m.	- dismissal

### School Traffic

We ask that you obey the following traffic rules:

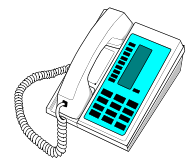
1. Please obey all **one way**, exit, entrance signs and markings that have been freshly painted on the asphalt entering and leaving the parking lot.
2. Park in the church parking lot if at all possible.
3. Do not park in the driveways and handicapped spaces.
4. Do not double park and hem other parents in.
5. Please do not park in the bus loading zone. Bus arrives at 8:45 a.m. and 3:25 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. This is the safest passage way and is encouraged.
7. Parking along the fence is posted for Kindergarten parents only.
8. When exiting "right" out of the parking lot, please watch for students crossing with the crossing guard. Please allow them the right of way.



### 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.



### **New Sign in /Sign out Procedure** In

order to ensure the safety of our students, we would like to ask that you “sign in” at the office if your child is late (once announcements have started). Also, please be sure to sign out at the office if your child is leaving early.

### **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.
- \*Acceptable Use Agreement for Student Use of ICT (Information Technologies)**
- \*Student Data Verification form** – please complete both sides and sign
- \*Parent Volunteer Form**
- \*Student Excursion Form**
- \*School Newsletter via Website return**
- \*Permission to Participate Form**

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

### **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**

### **seeking volunteers for our Breakfast Program.**

Please contact the school office if you think you can help one morning a week from approximately 8:00-8:30 a.m. Many of our children count on this program. Without volunteers, this cannot happen. The Breakfast Program will not start until October. Thank you. School Advisory Council will also be seeking volunteers, this letter will be sent home toward the end of the first week.

### **Milk Program**

We will begin our new Milk Program in October. Please watch for an order form to come home. This year, we will run a monthly, prepaid program from the office, and we would like to ask for your co-operation in ordering only white **OR** chocolate milk for each month as we do not have the staff to run it any differently this year.

### **Upcoming Dates**

- Sept. 5 – all signed forms due back in office
- Sept. 12 – Early Release Day. All students are dismissed at 12:20 p.m.
- Sept. 15 – School picture day
- Sept. 16 – School Advisory Council at 6:00 p.m. NEW MEMBERS are very welcome!
- Sept. 25 – Open House/Barbecue
- October – Breakfast Club begins
- October – Milk Program begins

