

End of June Happenings at Parliament Oak

From the Principal's Desk...

As the 2009-10 school year comes to a close and I reflect on my first year at Parliament Oak I have many wonderful memories (the bobcat through the roof is not one of them though). It has been an extreme pleasure to work with students, staff and parents of Parliament Oak School. It is an amazing place to be on a daily basis watching children grow academically and socially. I wish each of you a happy and safe holiday. I intend to catch up on some reading for pleasure and for work and spend some much needed quality time with my three daughters and my husband. I thank you all for your continuous support you have shown me in my first year at Parliament Oak.

School Opening

School begins for the 2010/11 year on Tuesday, September 7, 2009 at 8:45 a.m. The School Office is open August 30 - September 2 for new student registration.

Parliament Oak Timetable for 2010-11

Listed is a schedule of our instructional day:

Morning

8:30... .	Supervision Begins
8:45... .	Entry
8:50-9:40	Period 1
9:40-10:30	Period 2
10:30-11:05	Nutrition Break
11:05-11:55	Period 3
11:55 - 12:45	Period 4
12:45 - 1:35	Nutrition Break
1:35 - 2:25	Period 5
2:25-3:15	Period 6
3:15... .	Dismissal

Report Card Page Three

Please bring it to the school by noon on Wednesday.

School Supplies for September

Please review the list of supplies that was included with your child's report card. All students in grade 1 to 8 will be expected to use the Student Organizer. The organizer can be the key to **good communication** between home and school, as well as an **organizational tool** for students. It will be available for purchase on the first day of school for \$8.00.

Farewell to Staff

We say good bye to Miss Kostas who has been a great addition to the Parliament Oak staff. Good luck with your wedding this summer. We also say good bye to Mrs. Hofland, our Youth Counsellor. We wish Mrs. Hofland well in her new schools.

Welcome to Parliament Oak

We have had a change in our previously announced grade 5 teacher. Mrs. Willey has accepted another position within our board and will therefore not be joining the Parliament Oak staff. We would like to tentatively welcome Ms. Cutting to Parliament Oak School. Ms. Cutting is coming to us from Prince Philip School. She is a dynamic teacher who has so much to offer the Parliament Oak community. Ms. Cutting will be

teaching grade 5. Welcome to Ms. Jen Smith, our new Youth Counsellor.

Open House -Meet the Teachers

Mark Wednesday, September 22, on your calendar and plan to attend a very special evening at Parliament Oak.

TENTATIVE September 2010-11 Class

Organization

We will organize students and staff in the following way for the Fall. :

Secretary	Mrs. Ciazynski
JK/SK	Mrs. Inglis
JK/SK	Miss Masson
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Berezcky
Grade 2/3	Mrs. Jackman-Burton
Grade 3/4	Mrs. Pyle
Grade 5	Ms. Cutting (tentative)
Grade 6	Mrs. Andrews
Grade 7/8	Mr. Mead
Teacher Librarian	Mrs. Hamdani
French	Mme. Giesbrecht
LRT	Mrs. Hamdani
EA	Mrs. Casement
Youth Worker	Ms. Smith
Custodian	Mr. Bissell
Night Custodian	Mr. Iggulden
Principal	Mrs. Hadfield

Transportation Information

Please refer to the NSTS link on our website should you wish to access bussing information over the summer. If you need to make changes in drop off or pick up locations please contact Mrs. Ciazynski upon her return in August. If requests are made after September 1st we cannot guarantee the changes can be in place for the first day of school.

Our Outdoor Classroom is Open

After a whole year of planning, applying for grants and choosing just the right materials, our outdoor classroom has officially been opened. Situated under a great oak tree our students will enjoy learning in an outdoor setting next year and for years to come. A huge thank you goes out to Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Inglis, the Eco Club and Mrs. Dominick for making the classroom a reality. Also, thanks goes out to Mr. Robinson, Ms. Cowherd, Ms. Engeli and Mrs. Davis for working so hard with the labour in establishing our classroom.

We are Eco Gold Again

Our Eco Club worked very hard this year to earn the necessary points to earn Parliament Oak an Eco Gold status. Way to go PO!

Food & Drink on the Playground

With your support, we want to reduce litter and make our playground as safe as possible for students with severe allergies. Please begin by planning “garbageless” and “peanut butter-less” lunches and snacks with your family during the summer. Then, look for details in the September newsletter.

Communication “Matters”

Smart Talk from Your Board Speech-Language Pathologists

Background knowledge helps students make sense of what they hear and read by allowing them to make connections between old and new experiences. Here are some ideas for the summer to help your child enrich their background knowledge through fun summer experiences.

1. Read a book that takes place in another part of the country or world. It’s a great way to experience new places. For example, look at a map of Canada with your child and talk about the parts of the country he or she would like to visit. Then search on-line or visit your local library to learn more about that region; for example national parks and historic sites. The whole world awaits!
2. Visit a local museum or historical site. Check your newspaper’s weekend listings for information about museums and exhibits near you. To prepare your child for a trip to the museum, consider reading one of the following books: *The Field Mouse and the Dinosaur Named Sue* (Jan Wahl); *The Explorabook: A Kid’s Science Museum in a Book* (John Cassidy). Go to the local library to find historical sites in your area or engaging stories about the past. Learning about the past is another way to leave the everyday world behind while still in town.
3. Travel to the Stars. The night sky is fascinating, not only to kids but to adults too. If you can’t head north, pitch a tent in the backyard and look up at the stars. Can you find the Big Dipper or the North Star? Tell stories late into the night. Can’t get away? Take a trip to the stars with the help of a good book about the planets and the stars: *Find the Constellations* (H.A. Hey); *Destination Space* (Seymour Simon); *The DK Space Encyclopaedia* (Nigel Henbest).
4. Make a time capsule. What better way to help a child link the past with the future! First select a container for the capsule and then have your child select items to put in it (e.g., newspaper headlines or article clippings; a list of favourite music or music; books; some photographs). Encourage them to discuss why they chose these particular items. Talk about whom the time capsule is for; perhaps for an unknown person in the future or even for your child to open in ten years. Help your child to write a letter to include in the capsule. Make a label for the outside: Not to be opened until 2018. Finally, find a place to put the capsule: bury it in the garden; hide it in a back closet; put it in the attic or crawlspace.

5. Enjoy the great outdoors. Take time to hike, swim, catch fireflies, look at birds or plants, or just meander through your neighbourhood, making sure to talk about where you’re going, what you see and sharing what you did with other family members or friends. Visit area parks, playgrounds, trails, horticultural centres, or beaches. ‘Visit’ the wilderness by reading *My Side of the Mountain* (Jean Craighead George) or ‘experience’ an outdoor adventure by reading *Pet Bugs: A Kid’s Guide to Catching and Keeping Touchable Insects* (Sally Kneidel); *Animals on the Trail with Lewis and Clark* and *Plants on the Trail* (Dorothy Hinshaw Patent).

Do you have a child between the ages of 4 and 6?

If so, please take a moment to ensure that your child’s immunizations are up-to-date and that he/she has received:

6. a booster dose of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio (DTP/Quadracel) between the ages of 4 and 6; and,
7. a second dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

If your child has **not** yet received these vaccines, your child can be immunized for free at one of our Public Health Immunization clinics. Please call 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 for more information and/or to schedule an appointment. You can also call your child’s doctor to make an immunization appointment or visit a local walk-in clinic. If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to immunize your child, you can submit to us a notarized Statement of Conscience/Religious Belief Affidavit.

Niagara Region Public Health is required by law to have an Immunization Record on file for every child attending a school in the Niagara region. The importance of having this information on file helps us to protect all children in the event of an infectious disease outbreak.

Please report your child’s immunization(s) to Niagara Region Public Health using ONE of the following:

INTERNET: www.niagararegion.ca

TELEPHONE (Immunization Report Line): 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7459

FAX (a copy of your child’s Immunization Record): 905-688-8225



