

Parliament Oak News for September 2011

From the Principal's Desk. . .

A very warm welcome back to all our students, staff and their families as the 2011-2012 year begins. We hope that everyone had a safe and relaxing summer and is looking forward to the challenges of this new year. I look forward to working with you to ensure a successful school year for the students of Parliament Oak School.

Learning is a shared responsibility. Our teachers will do their very best to teach each student and students need to do their very best to learn. Every student needs support and encouragement from their parents, too. A co-operative home-school partnership can make such a positive difference. Keep in touch with your children's teachers; read over the student agenda daily; consider volunteering in the school; help out on a class trip; attend school council meetings and come out to special events.

To keep you informed about the many activities and events at Parliament Oak, a school newsletter will be sent home/emailed each month with the youngest in the family. If you do not receive one during the first week of each month, please ask your child about it (or check the backpack!). If you have questions or concerns regarding your child, please do not hesitate to call the school. See you on the 28th at our Open House.

⇒ Construction Update

Over the past two months Parliament Oak has been undergoing over a million dollars in renovations. Most of the work is done but we are not totally complete. Our goal is to 100% complete by the end of September. We are excited by the many updates such as new windows, doors, whiteboards, tackboards. We have a new office, handicap washroom, lockers and staff room. Our computer lab and library have been renovated. Over the next few weeks crews will be in after school hours to finish their jobs. Our library and staff room will be the last rooms to be fully finished. New furniture has been purchased for the library and computer lab. We invite you to join us on September 28th during our Open House to take the grand tour!

⇒ Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to the staff(along with friends and family members) of Parliament Oak School would worked tirelessly over the Labour Day long weekend to get their classrooms and the school ready for the first day of school. Staff did not have entry into the school until Thursday, September 1st. In 5 days they have cleaned, unpacked and set up their classes to be ready for the first day of school. Mr. Bissell and his crew worked around the clock to make sure the school was sparkling clean! **Our staff ROCKS!**

⇒ Bell Times

| Morning | Afternoon |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Entry..... 8:45 | Break. 12:45-1:35 |
| JK/SK Dismissal. . 11:15 | Dismissal. 3:15 |
| Break. 10:30 - 11:05 | |

⇒ New to Parliament Oak

We would like to welcome Mme. M. Bake (Gr. 7 French Immersion), Mlle. L. Guido (Gr. 5 French Immersion), Mrs. J. Bohonos (Gr. 7/8), Mrs. K. Durrant (Prep/Gr 4/5), Ms. R. Bell (E.A.) to the Parliament Oak staff.

⇒ Student Safety

Your child's safety is very important to the staff of Parliament Oak School.

SNACKS OUTSIDE: Due to the number of bee and food allergies at Parliament Oak School, food will not be permitted outside during our nutritional breaks.

LUNCH POLICY: Please see the Lunch Form Insert

accompanying this newsletter. Please complete the form in its entirety. All students staying for lunch at school will be eating their lunch in their classroom and attendance will be taken on a regular basis. If your child is not present during that time, a parent will be notified immediately. Please be aware that eating lunch at school is a privilege and all lunch rules are expected to be followed.

PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE: All guests of Parliament Oak School, *including parents*, are asked to check in at the office. Guests will be asked to sign in and wear a name badge. If a staff member sees a guest in the hallway who does not have a badge, he/she will be directed to the office to sign in. We have a number of new staff to the school who do not know all of the parents. This measure is put in place for the safety of your children.

EXTERIOR DOORS: Please be aware that after the 8:45 a.m. bell, the 11:05 a.m. and the 1:35 p.m. bell, all exterior doors (except for the front doors) will be locked.

STUDENT ENTRY/EXIT: *All students* will be expected to enter and exit through their divisional doors. Classroom teachers will greet the classes at their appropriate doors to bring them into the school. Parents who walk their children to school are asked to walk them to their assigned entry instead of through the parking lot doors. *Students should not enter the school prior to the entrance bell.*

We request your cooperation for the safety of all students.

⇒ Attendance Procedures



To ensure the accountability and safety of our students, it is imperative that parents call the office when their child is going to be absent.

There is an answering machine if you wish to leave a message before the school opens. If a child is absent and no call is received, we use our

call-back system to account for these children.

⇒ Picture Day

School photographs will be taken throughout the day on Wednesday, September 28th. Additional information will be sent home regarding this. Please try to avoid this date for appointments for your child, as we would like all students to be present for their picture.

⇒ Milk Program

This year the milk program will continue to run using milk cards only. The cost of the card will be \$10.00 and the student receives 12 milks. You may purchase a card by submitting a cheque or cash to the school.

Please place your cheque/money in an envelope with your child's name, grade and specify if your son/daughter would like white or chocolate milk. The envelope will be delivered to the office and the milk card will be distributed to your child. We will not be ordering extra milk. We will only be ordering the exact amount of milk needed per week based on the amount of milk cards sold. Students will not be allowed to purchase milk if they bring money to school, so please remember to order your milk card.

⇒ Confidential Information Sheets

During the first week of school you will receive a computer printout of your child's information on file. Please check this and make any changes, fill in any missing information, and return it to the school promptly. In the interest of health and safety, it is important that students' medical and personal information is updated each year. The health card number is very important. *Please let us know if the information changes during the school year!*

⇒ Lunches at School

It is best to start the year off right with students bringing their own lunch/snacks to school with them in the morning. If you must deliver a lunch on the odd occasion please ensure that your child knows that it is coming, have it here before our nutritional break and make it your child's responsibility to pick it up at the office during the break. Print your child's name clearly on the lunch bag. We will not interrupt instructional time to deliver lunches. The school day has been organized to allow most students to go home during the second nutritional break. Unless children are involved in an activity that requires them to be at school during that time, they are expected to eat lunch at home. Working parents might consider arranging for a neighbour to supervise children over the break period. For those students who must stay, a signed lunch form is required. These forms will be sent home. Please return them promptly.

⇒ Student Agenda Program

Every student in grades 1 to 8 will receive a Student Agenda. This is a valuable tool which is designed to help the students keep track of assignments and stay organized, as well as ensure that they are aware of the guidelines and expectations at Parliament Oak. Parent and teacher guidance is essential to the success of the student in using the agenda. Please help us help your child develop these important skills. Agendas will cost \$10.00 each. Please send the money to your child's homeroom teacher by the end of the first week of school.

⇒ Information Home

A school calendar showing holidays, early release and professional activity days for the coming year will be sent home this week. Student Accident Insurance forms will also be sent home. Remember to send those insurance forms directly to the company. **Do not return the envelope to the school.** We encourage you to purchase this low cost student accident insurance that will protect your children from accidental injuries, particularly dental injuries. It is strongly recommended for students participating in extra curricular sports.

⇒ Character Education

As a school and community, we know how important it is that we develop positive character and life skills among our youth. The character trait we will focus on for September will be **RESPECT**. At the end of the month we will recognize those students who have consistently demonstrated this character trait. Further information about the various traits we will be focussing on will be sent home later in the month.

⇒ Early Release Days

Two Early Release Days and four full day Professional Activity Days have been set aside this year to allow staff to focus on curriculum implementation. With the tremendous amount of curriculum change taking place, this is a critical necessity. On September 23, 2011 and February 17, 2012 we will be having Early Release Days while October 7, 2011, January 20, 2011, May 18, 2012 as well June 8, 2011 have been designated as Professional Activity Days. On the Early Release Days we will dismiss students at 11:40 a.m. School bus services and crossing guards will be in place to accommodate this. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

⇒ Cross Country

Cross Country practices will be starting soon! Listen to announcements for sign up times and more details. Practices will be during first break, and students in grades 3-8 are invited to join. Look forward to seeing you!



⇒ School Council News

Welcome back to all students and parents, and a big welcome to all new families to Parliament Oak. Our first Parent Council meeting will be October 5, 2011 at 7 pm. We welcome all parents to attend our meetings and see how you can contribute to our school.

⇒ Intermediate Girls Volleyball

Bump, set, spike! All Intermediate Girls who would like to play volleyball are invited to try-outs starting on Tuesday, September 13th during the first nutrition break (10:30 a.m.) All interested girls in grades 7 & 8 should attend the practice wearing appropriate physical education clothing. Looking forward to another exciting year.



⇒ Colour Houses

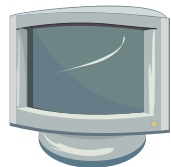
As we strive to build community spirit and team work at Parliament Oak School, we will be implementing Colour Houses this year. Your child will be a part of a cross graded colour house. Colour Houses will compete with each other throughout the year during Spirit Day activities. They will also sit with each other during assemblies. Colour Houses will be introduced to students over the next few weeks. Our first Spirit Day will be on September 30th where students are asked to dress in their Colour House colour. Points for each team will be earned by wearing their special colour that day. Colour Houses provide leadership opportunities for our older students while building school spirit.

⇒ Terry Fox Run

Our annual Terry Fox Run will take place on Thursday, September 29th. A notice will be sent home in the coming weeks with details

⇒ Parliament Oak's Website

If you have lost your newsletter, or if your child has not brought it home, please check out our website:



<http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/Schools/ParliamentOak/>. Our website includes current and past newsletters, our code of conduct, school council information, a school year calendar, bell times along with a wealth of other information

⇒ School Organization and School Safety

-Arrival after 8:30 will ensure supervision of students by staff on the school yard. Arrival prior to 8:30 means students may be alone on the playground. Students cannot be supervised in the school as this is teacher preparation time.

If you would like to speak to a teacher before school, please call in advance to make an appointment as teachers often have yard duty.

- Appropriate dress for the season is required at all times. No profanity or obscene pictures will be allowed. If students do not wear appropriate dress they will be asked to change immediately. If students cannot change, a large t-shirt will be provided for the day.

-Lost and Found will be located by the computer lab.

-Volunteers are welcome at Parliament Oak to assist staff in the class or with programs throughout the school. Approach any staff member for the area of interest in which you wish to help.

-Our Code of Conduct can be found in the student organizer as well as on our website. Please review this with your child as a proactive measure and to establish a framework of understanding between home and school.

-Kindergarten Dismissal will be made by the teachers. Please respect this organizational and safety requirement. Do not take your child from the school yard.

-Walking across the parking lot is not safe and will not be permitted unless accompanied by a parent.

-Bicycles, skateboards and roller blades must be walked on school property. Students are not allowed to ride their bicycles, skateboards and roller blades on school property based on a recommendation by the Niagara Regional Police. Bicycles must be locked in the bike racks. If a student is younger than grade 4, it is recommended that he/she be accompanied by an adult to and from school.

-With a number of bussed students at Parliament Oak School, there is school bus loading zone on King Street in front of the school. Please have a close look at the signs so you won't receive an unwanted ticket. The safe loading and unloading of our bus students is very important. This area is not for parking

⇒ Parliament Oak Staff for 2011-12

Our staff this year:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. A. Inglis | JK/SK |
| Miss. M. Masson | Grade 1/2 |
| Mrs. L. Pyle | Grade 2/3 |
| Mlle. L. Guido | Grade 5 French Immersion |
| Mrs. M. Cutting | Grade 4/5 |

Mrs. J. Andrews
Mme. M. Bake
Mrs. J. Bohonos
Mrs. I. Giesbrecht
Mrs. A. Berezcky
Mrs. J. Casement
Ms. B. Haine
Ms. R. Bell
Ms. M. Clarke
Ms. L. Walton
Mrs. M. Rougoor
Mr. R. Bissell
Mrs. D. Ciazynski
Mrs. C. Hadfield

Grade 5/6
Grade 7 French Immersion
Grade 7/8
FSL/Primary Prep
LRT/Teacher-Librarian
Educational Assistant
Educational Assistant
Educational Assistant
Youth Counsellor
Lunch Supervisor
Lunch Supervisor
Head Caretaker
Administrative Assistant
Principal

Meet the Teacher Open House

Join us on Wednesday, September 28th, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM, to meet the Parliament Oak staff and tour the school.

Please encourage your child to make the introductions and remember, this is not an appropriate time for an interview. These can be arranged for a more private time with the teacher.

⇒ NOTL Rangers Basketball Registration

Saturday, September 10, 2011, 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the Community Centre

Open to all Girls Grades 6 & under (born 2000 or later).

Open to all Boys in Grades 1 & 2 (born 2004 or later).

Beginning week of September 19, 2011, out of local area schools.

If unable to attend registration, contact:

Jennifer Caughill

NOTL Rangers Basketball

Tel: (905)468-9408

winnersdaycamps@cogeco.ca

⇒ Niagara Regional Public Health

Hepatitis B Immunization

The Hepatitis B/ Meningitis immunization program for grade 7 students and the Gardasil immunization for Gr. 8 girls will occur again in the schools. The vaccine is given in two doses, four months apart. Consent forms will be sent home very soon and should be returned promptly.

Immunization

Have you checked your child's immunization to make sure it is up to date? If you're unsure if your child requires any needles, you may call the Health Department at 688-3762, ext. 7396, and speak to a public health nurse.



