



Mrs. S. Lawrence, B.A., M.Ed.
Principal

Back to School: September 2009

♪ The Most Wonderful Time of the Year ♪

For those returning, and to those just starting, welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! We are thrilled it is here and happy to be sharing it with you. This year we are proud to welcome four new staff members including: Ms. L. Maynard (EA), Mrs. C. Dumanski (Grade 1), and Ms. A. Tytler (Youth Counsellor), and Mr. T. Freure (Grade 3).

Our class assignments are tentative based on the number of students we accounted for in June. As you can imagine, changes always occur over the summer. During the first week of school we will be reviewing our numbers and placements and, *should a change be required*, we hope to have everyone settled during the week of Sept. 21st. It has been a different opening this year, as we are hosting a Kindergarten Open House in our Gymnasium on the first day. We welcome all our new kindergarten students during previously arranged appointments. We are working with some community partners including our library, our public health nurse, and a car seat check. On Wednesday morning, all students will begin their day with a welcoming assembly, and meeting new staff that have joined our Applewood team. Our official Open School night is Tuesday, September 22, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Come tour the school, meet our staff and enjoy the wonderful changes in our building and surrounding campus.

The contractors were busy working all summer, and have made wonderful up-grades. The biggest part of the changes was the electrical. That helped to improve the fire alarm systems, cables, computer lab and library. The classrooms have walls and updated whiteboards and tackboards. The junior students will be happy with lockers~ a first for us! They will arrive by the end of September. If you notice, things in cardboard boxes, it is because we had late access to our school, and by our OPEN SCHOOL evening we expect to be more settled.

This year we will continue our Good News Bulletin Board outside the office. This will be a place to recognize the exciting events that happen in and around our school community. I encourage families to provide the office with their own (*or a friend's ?!?!?*) good news for us to post. It may be a picture in the paper, an athletic award, a goal achieved (*e.g., learning to tie shoes or memorizing multiplication tables*), news of new family members (*including pets*).....really, we are looking for anything that has made your family feel proud! As well we will also host the ME To WE bulletin again this year as we continue support for agencies locally and One World Youth connection with Kosovo. The goal this year is End Poverty and Hunger! We have committed to the collection of pennies in our Pennies for Peace campaign this month.

Attendance

Parents are requested to inform the school if a child will be absent or late in the morning or afternoon. Please telephone the school at 905-684-4359 before 9:00 a.m. or 12:50 p.m. For the convenience of parents, there is also a 24 hour answering machine if you wish to leave a message. If your child will be late, or if an appointment has been scheduled during the school day and your child must be dismissed early, the school must be informed.

Students Staying for Lunch

Since students benefit from a break away from school during the day, we strongly encourage all students to go home during the noon hour time (which has been changed to **11:35-12:30**). If parents are working or are unable to be home for lunch, we suggest arrangements be made for your child to have lunch with a babysitter or at a neighbour's house. In some cases, this may not be possible. If your child has no other alternative but to stay for lunch at school, please complete the enclosed confidential lunch form and return it to the school immediately. Miss Lynda MacBride will again be our lunchtime supervisor.

School Times

The school times are adjusted to an "even" number and Grades 1-6 continue to be based on six 50 minute periods.

8:50	Entry for all (JK-6)
10:30 - 10:45	Recess
11:35	A.M. Kindergarten Dismissal
11:35 - 12:30	Lunch Hour (1-6)
12:30	Entry for all students (JK-6)
2:10 - 2:25	Recess
3:15	P.M. Kindergarten Dismissal
3:15	Dismissal for students (1-6)

Teachers will be on duty to supervise students at recess times and fifteen minutes prior to the morning and afternoon admittances. Please do not send your child to school prior to these times. Safety is our greatest concern and we do not want children on the yard without supervision. At dismissal times, we expect students to go directly home for safety's sake.

School Council

Please consider joining the Applewood School Council. Research has demonstrated a strong link between parental involvement and student success.

We will hold our first meeting:

6:30pm Mon. Sept. 21st

Please call the school if you are interested in serving on the council but are unable to attend the September meeting. IF an election is required, it will take place at the first meeting.

Peanut Allergy Awareness

To keep Applewood Public School a Peanut Safe environment, we are asking your co-operation to not send any food or snacks that contain peanut products. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a health risk when peanut products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. Please speak to your child about not sharing their snacks with other children. Many foods have dden traces of peanut oil and therefore by not sharing we can try to avoid unknown ingestion of peanuts. Luckily, more and more companies are becoming aware of this growing concern and are modifying their practices and labelling products as nut-free (or not!).

We realize this request poses an inconvenience for you when packing your child's snack; however, we wish to express sincere appreciation for your support and understanding of these health needs. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you would like further information.

It is understood that neither Applewood School nor the District School board of Niagara can guarantee an allergen-free environment for students. Both home and school are concerned for the safety and well being of our students. Together we will strive to maintain an optimal learning environment for them. Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.

Some Healthy Peanut Free Snacks

include:

- * fresh or canned fruit
- * milk
- * cheese
- * yogurt
- * juice
- *veggies



School Safety Patrols

For the safety of students at Applewood Public School, student safety patrollers are on duty at the front of the school for children crossing Woodrow Street. Please encourage your children to cross with them and to obey the school safety patrollers. The Safety Patrol Crosswalk is to the north side of Stonegate Drive and Woodrow Street. Students who need to cross Woodrow are required to cross at this section and follow the instructions of the Safety Patrol. Special thanks to Mr. Honsinger and the grade 5/6 class for running this excellent program. We have not received any further word about having a regular crossing guard for our school, but we continue to pursue this request at City Hall.

Medication for Students

Any prescribed medication that is to be administered to students during school must have an authorization form completed by your physician. Forms are available at the office.

School Photos

This year Applewood will have photos on:

Tuesday, September 22nd (in a.m.- except p.m. JK/SK)

By securing an early photo date we hope to have great looking photos displaying sunny faces and back to school hair cuts ☺! This year photos will be taken by Edge Imaging. Retakes will be Monday, Nov. 2nd.

Meet the Staff

This year we will host our "Open School" on **Tuesday, September 22nd**. The school will be open and teachers will be in their classes from **5:30-6:30 p.m.**. The purpose of this evening is to meet the staff who work with your child(ren), learn a little about the program they will be covering and visit the classroom. We hope to see all of you that evening!

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering in the school there are a variety of ways you can help. First, please talk to your child's teacher or the office. Parents do not always work directly in their child's class and there are a variety of other ways you can help in the school. We are looking for people to serve on the School Council and the Parent Group; family members can often help during special occasions such as field trips or celebrations; parents who cannot come in during the day can often help by completing certain tasks at home in the evening.

School Visitors

In the interest of student safety, in 2006 Applewood installed a security camera and buzzer system at the front door. During instruction times please use the signal and wait to be buzzed in. All school visitors (including parents) should enter the school through the main entrance and must check in at the office to confirm or make an appointment before visiting any classroom or picking up any students during regular school hours. **Students are not to use the front entrance on their own** except in late arrivals and/or early dismissals when they are being picked up. In both of these cases, students must visit the office immediately following arrival or prior to departure.

Verification Information Sheet

At the beginning of each school year we ask parents to complete a verification information sheet for each child. We are sending home a print-out of the most up to date information that we have on file. **Please read this over carefully and make any necessary changes in red (or any other bright colour) ink.** This information is used to update our computer and is then filed separately, by class, and is readily available in the event of an emergency.

It is very important that we have an emergency contact who would usually be available and lives in relatively close proximity to the school.

Please return these corrected/completed forms right away to the office or your child's teacher in the interest of your child's welfare and safety.

Student Planner/Agenda/Organizer

All students in grades 1-6 will purchase the School Agenda which provides information about our school policies and procedures and provides students with a monthly calendar, a daily agenda, weekly goal sheets, and a variety of helpful information students. Information in regards to payment for these agendas will be forwarded through home room teachers this week.

Please be sure to read and sign the Code of Conduct in the organizer and the DSN Internet Use Policy (for grades 4-6). This is on a tear away page provided in the back of the organizer. Consider this the first piece of homework!

Physical Education

For reasons of health and safety and to develop positive attitudes and total involvement in physical education classes, we stress that students wear proper clothing and shoes in the gym. For students in grades 4-6 this means changing into shorts, runners and t-shirts. For students in JK-3 this means wearing loose comfortable clothing (avoiding skirts/dresses) and running shoes (sandals and shoes with raised heels are not permitted for PE). Since students will have physical education most days of the cycle (please see individual class schedules for your child(ren)'s days), proper clothing is expected on all PE days.

Speaking of footwear, students will need to have separate indoor footwear to change into (ideally to be left at school), and, on the advice of our school insurance providers, **wheeled running shoes will not be permitted**. These shoes have wheels that can flip into the sole of the shoes but they can easily slip out and cause accidents, especially on staircases. For other information on the Dress Code please see the Code of Conduct in the Student Planner.

Accidents CAN Happen!

Is your child insured for medical or dental costs in case of an accidental injury? The District School Board of Niagara does not provide medical payments coverage for students.

If you have no other coverage it is important that parents/guardians purchase this coverage to ensure that medical or dental costs are covered in case of accident. Reliable Life Student Accident Insurance forms have been provided to each student to assist you in getting coverage. It costs as little as \$2 per student for basic school day/school activity coverage..

Student Insurance forms are enclosed with this newsletter. Parents wishing to purchase insurance should forward the application directly to the company.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

In accordance with the joint fire safety plan (created with the school board and the fire department) the fire lane has been clearly painted. **There must be no parking or standing in the fire lane.**

To alleviate congestion in the driveway, we ask for your help. Students in Grades 1 to 6 should be dropped off at the north end of the driveway and enter the school yard near the portable. Having clear access for emergency vehicles and buses is needed at all times.

This is also a good time to remind you that with smoking laws forbid smoking on any part of school property- including in your car on the parking lot. Smoking enforcement officers have been known to come by and ticket people who are not in compliance



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
905-688-3762 or 1-800-263-7248
www.regional.niagara.on.ca

It's back to school time again. Every September our thoughts are turned towards preparing our children returning back to school for the school year. Have you thought about checking your child's immunization to make sure it's up to date for his or her age? Immunization is often neglected and that's why we remind you to check your child's yellow immunization card to make sure it is up to date. If you're unsure if your child requires any needles, you can call the Regional Niagara Public Health Department at (905) 688-3762 or 1-800-263-7248 ext. 7396 and speak to a public health nurse. In addition, you are required to report your child's immunizations to the Public Health Department. So each time your child gets a needle you need to let us know about it. Call our Immunization Report Line at (905) 688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext 7459. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and it's confidential.

Remember, immunize your child on time and notify the Public Health Department every time.

Professional Activity & Early Release Days

This year the District Board of Niagara will have three Professional Activity (PA) Days and two Early Release (ER) Days. The purpose of PA and ER days is to focus on curriculum implementation.

All schools in the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) will dismiss students from afternoon classes on the following dates:

- Friday, September 25th 2009 and
- Friday, February 12th 2010

Students in Grades 1-6 will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m. Morning Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m. **There will be no afternoon Kindergarten classes on these dates!**

All schools in the DSBN will dismiss students from classes on:

- Friday, October 9th 2009
- Friday, November 13th 2009
- Friday, December 4th 2009
(Afternoon~ Parent-Teacher Interviews)
- Friday, April 21st 2010

Outdoor Education Day #1: "Fall Frenzy"

Students will participate in 3 separate half days involving fun, spirit, co-operation and physical activity. The first will be held on the afternoon of Friday **September 18th**. All students from afternoon Kindergarten and students in grades 1-6 will be placed on a "colour team" and participate in a variety of activities. All events will take place at the school and more details will arrive before the big day! Fun times will also be scheduled in Winter and Spring. Thank you to Ms. Hoekstra and Mrs. Vince for organizing.

P,S,~ all students are on a colour team and will gain points as a team, throughout our year. The teams will be multi-aged students and will be used consistently as ways to group students, instill responsibility and other character attributes. We look forward to this community building!

Applewood Public School Staff 2009-2010

Mrs. S. Syri	-	JK/SK - a.m. & p.m.
Mrs. C. Dumanski	-	Gr. 1
Mrs. S. Di Teodoro	-	Gr. 2
Mr. T. Freure	-	Gr. 3
Mrs. S. Vince	-	Gr. 4/5, Junior French, LRT
Mr. B. Honsinger	-	Gr. 5/6, Technology
Ms. C. Hoekstra	-	Phys Ed. & Health
Mrs. P. Hall	-	Rotary~ The Arts
Ms. A. Tytler	-	Youth Worker
Mrs. M. Leitch	-	Secretary
Mrs. C. Thibodeau	-	School Custodian
Mr. J. Laurin	-	Assistant Custodian
Miss L. MacBride	-	Lunch Room Supervisor
Mrs. S. Lawrence	-	Principal

SEPTEMBER 2009 APPLEWOOD NEWSLETTER DRAW

My/our child(ren) _____, _____, _____,

brought home this newsletter and we have read and discussed it. **Draw to be held Sept 11th*

My/our comments are:

- I/we plan to attend the school council meeting on Sept. 21rd
- I am unable to attend the school council meeting but am interested in being a member
- I am unavailable to be a school council member this year

Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

