



Achieving  
Success  
Together

# The Connaught Chronicle

September 2009

Connaught School 28 Prince St. St. Catharines, ON 905.682.6609

Principal: Mrs. S. Fehrman Vice Principal: Mr. B. Mayhew

Administrative Assistants: Mrs. P. Nardangeli & Mrs. J. Brenneman

## Principal's Message

### Welcome to the 2009 - 2010 School Year at Connaught School

I hope you had a healthy and relaxing summer with your children. It is with great excitement that we look forward to another great year at Connaught.

I'd like to welcome all the families who are new to the Connaught area. We are very proud of our school and our commitment to your child's education. I'm sure that as you visit and become involved with your child's education you'll find that it is a great place to educate your child.

Education should be an exciting partnership amongst the student, the parents, and the teacher. If all of these partners do their best I guarantee that every student will develop to his/her potential. Research indicates that children whose parents show a strong interest and support for their child's education will be more successful. If we expect our children to be the best they can be, we owe it to them to be the best parents and teachers we can be! Never hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have a question, concerns or compliments. Ways to become involved include volunteering in a classroom, chaperone a trip, attend School Council Meetings, and attending special events, such as Open House, assemblies, sports activities, etc. The education of your child does not end at 3:10 p.m. Support what we do by discussing the events of the day. Never accept the answer "NOTHING" to your

question, "What did you do at school today?" We do make every effort not to have our students sit perfectly still for five hours a day in eager anticipation of going home. Be sure to support the daily habit of reading by modeling reading for your child. Turn everyday activities such as a trip to the grocery store into a learning experience. With your support, this will be your child's best year at school. Have a wonderful year!!!

Please mark down our OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. I look forward to the evening.

We would like to welcome **Mr. Brad Mayhew**, our new vice principal, **Mr. Jesse Campbell**, our new Grade 4/5 teacher, **Mr. Harold Krake**, our new primary prep coverage teacher, **Mrs. Lisa Bley** and **Miss Christy McDougall** our Educational Assistants. Also welcome to **Mrs. Leanne Hasenack** our youth counsellor.

Many thanks to our custodians, **Mr. Dupuis** and **Mr. Scott**, and our secretaries, **Mrs. Nardangeli** and **Mrs. Brenneman**, who worked so hard over the summer to prepare the school for our opening week.

*Shelley Fehrman*

## **Connaught Staff 2009-2010**

**Principal:** Mrs. S. Fehrman

**Vice Principal:** Mr. B. Mayhew

**Administrative Assistants:** Mrs. P. Nardangeli and Mrs. J. Brennehan

**Learning Resource Teacher:** Mrs. D. McLean

**JK/SK a.m. and p.m.:** Mr. D. Horton

**JK/SK a.m.:** Miss R. Moore

**Grade 1:** Miss L. Watson

**Grade 1/2:** Mrs. P. Garner

**Grade 2:** Mrs. S. Taylor

**Grade 2/3:** Mr. K. French

**Grade 3:** Mrs. S. Tebbutt

**Grade 4:** Mr. T. Devlin

**Grade 4/5:** Mr. J. Campbell

**Grade 5/6:** Mr. J. Pysar

**Grade 6:** Mrs. L. Zimmerman

**Grade 7:** Mr. S. Young

**Grade 7/8:** Mrs. M. Atack

**Intensive Support:** Mrs. C. Pennington-Berridge

**French:** Mme. J. Jinks

**Primary:** Mrs. S. Robinson and Mr. H. Krake

**ESL:** Mr. R. Liipere and Mrs. J. Bowman

**Youth Counsellor:** Mrs. L. Hasenack

**Educational Assistants:** Mrs. B. Cuthbert, Mrs. S. Graham, Mrs. M. Elliott, Mrs. L. Bley and Miss C. McDougall

**Custodian:** Mr. Y. Dupuis

## **Split Grades**

What do we really know about split grades? The definition is - a classroom situation when one teacher is responsible for teaching a class of students enrolled at two different grade levels (10 students in grade two and 15 in grade three). Dr. Joel Gajadharsingh, of the University of Saskatchewan, is leading North American investigator of multigrade classes. The Canadian Education Association summarized his findings regarding multigrade classes and concluded that children educated in multigrade classes get just as good an education as in a single grade classroom. Students learn as much in multigrade classes and their

ability to learn and get along with other people is as good as or better than students in a single grade. It is important to remember that a class of twenty-five grade six students will have some students capable of learning at a grade eight level while other students in the same class may have a reading level at grade five. The classroom teacher must attempt to meet the needs of all levels of learning regardless of a split class situation or a straight grade. The following statements supported by research confirm that a split class placement for a child is a very positive experience. Split classes will:

- let students learn from each other
- provide models for younger students
- encourage students to work together
- help students become independent

## **Balanced School Day**

### **Bell Times**

Our bell times have been reduced by 10 minutes during the second nutrition/fitness break. Therefore, dismissal for students will be at 3:10 p.m. this year. Supervision begins at 8:25. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:25 unless they are participating in a school activity.

### **Grades 1-8**

8:40 Entry

8:45 **Instructional Block 1**

10:25 Nutrition/Fitness Break

11:05 **Instructional Block 2**

12:45 Nutrition/Fitness Break

1:25 **Instructional Block 3**

3:10 Dismissal

Morning JK/SK 8:45 – 11:15

Afternoon JK/SK 12:45 – 3:15

## **Student Agendas**

All Connaught students in Grades 1-8 are required to have a Connaught Agenda. The cost is **\$5.00**. The school is subsidizing the cost of the Premier Agendas. Agendas will be used daily in the classrooms and are an important tool for our students.

## Lates and Absences

It is very important that your child arrives at school on time. When children arrive late, it means that they have missed the introduction to a lesson and therefore may lack some understanding as to the content. Also, by arriving late into a classroom, a child disrupts the presentation of the lesson, which is unfair to the rest of the class. When a student is late, he/she **must report** to the office prior to going to the classroom to get a “**late slip**” to present to the teacher. If you know your child will be late please contact the office. This will save a phone call from Mrs. Brenneman or Mrs. Nardangeli to ensure your child’s safety.

If your child is ill, please be sure to notify the office prior to 9:00 a.m. We have an answering machine available for your convenience, if you need to phone in the evening or early morning. **If your child is absent and we do not receive a call, Mrs. Brenneman or Mrs. Nardangeli, our secretaries, will contact you in order to ensure that your child is safe.**

## Entry and Exit Doors

For safety reasons, all students are being strongly encouraged by staff to use their proper entry and exit doors during the day. If you are picking up a student at our lunch break or home dismissal, please wait by their doors. With approximately 300 students dismissing at the same time it is necessary that we use the proper doors.

## Keep Our Kids Safe

All parents should report to the office when entering the school. If you must drop off money, lunch or trip forms, please give it to Mrs. Brenneman or Mrs. Nardangeli, our secretaries. They will make sure that your child is called to the office at an appropriate time. If you wish

to request an interview with a teacher, please check with the office and they will give the teacher the message so a speedy, mutually acceptable time can be chosen to speak privately with the teacher when he/she is free from classroom responsibility. School volunteers must wear a badge when volunteering within the school. Thanks for keeping our kids safe!

## Early Release Day

Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> is an early release day. Students will be dismissed at 11:55 a.m. that day. Staff will be involved in professional activities. Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> will be a full P.A. Day. There will be no school for students that day.

## Terry Fox Run

Students will participate in the Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Parent Council

The Connaught School Council is an active group of parents doing great things to support our students. Stay tuned for information on how you can be a part of this group. Our first School Council Meeting will be held in the Connaught Library on Monday, **September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

## Thank you!

Thank you to Costco who donated over 100 backpacks for our Grade 1 – 4 students this September!

## Photo Day – September 29

Wear bright colours and your best smile! School photos will be taken professionally on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Meet the Teacher Barbeque

Connaught will be hosting a Meet the Teacher Barbeque and Open House on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

***Classrooms will be open from 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.*** Come and meet your child's teacher and join us for a barbeque.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

This year, we will, once again, have Celebration Assemblies every month, alternating between morning and afternoon. Our first assembly will celebrate achievement in September. Certificates will be awarded to Students of the Month for achievement in the classroom. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend our assemblies.

### **Milk Program**

The Connaught office will be offering milk/chocolate milk each day beginning on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Students can purchase sheets of fifteen tickets at the office for \$12.00.

### **Bee Season**

At this time of year, bees seem to be everywhere. It is common for children to be stung while playing outside. If your child has an allergy to bee stings, it is imperative that the office be informed, in writing, immediately. We routinely call home if a child is stung, just to be on the safe side. An allergy, however, requires an Emergency Plan and, usually, an epipen at school.

### **Medication**

In order for medication to be dispensed at school, we need updated forms, signed by a physician. If your child requires medication at school, please ensure that the required form is sent into the office as soon as possible. The form may be picked up at the office. Medication may not be dispersed without a physician's signature.

## **MedicAlert's No Child Without Program**

The ***No Child Without*** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program.

Your child's voice in an emergency, MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca). To register your child you will need a ***No Child Without*** brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the ***No Child Without*** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext 1 to update your child's file.