

St. Teresa's School

École Ste-Thérèse

NEWSLETTER

Issue # 1
September 9th, 2017
www.stsnl.ca



GREETINGS

We would like to welcome back all returning students, parents/caregivers and a very special welcome to anyone new to our wonderful new school. We want to assure you of our intention to work closely with you as we support all students in their learning. Our combined efforts will help all our students reach their maximum potential. If you have any questions or concerns at any time during the school year, do not hesitate to contact us.

Teachers and support staff have been very busy getting ready for our students' arrival. We would like to wish everyone a wonderful school year. We encourage all our parents and caregivers to read our newsletters each month as they contain important information related to our school. **This year our classroom teachers will continue emailing our newsletter to the parents/caregivers of the students in their class. We will continue to send out a paper copy to those who do not have access to email and a computer. Please take the time to read this newsletter as it addresses many issues directly affecting you and your child.**

DAILY SCHEDULE

Doors open & Supervision begins	8:35a.m.
Students expected in class	8:50
Instruction begins	8:55
Recess	10:25-10:40
Lunch cafeteria for Grades 1-3 / Play for Grades 4-6	12:10 -12:35
Play for Grades 1-3 / cafeteria for Grades 4-6	12:35 -1:00
Instruction Begins Gr. 1-6	1:00
Dismissal – all students	3:00

PICTURE DAY

St. Teresa's school picture day will take place on September 28th. Life Touch will be taking our students pictures.

Terry Fox Walk

Our students will be participating in the annual Terry Fox walk on Friday, September 29th. We will be accepting small donations if you wish to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation. Our students will have their first walk around the pond for the year!!

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a very important role in our school. If you are able to help out in the learning resource center, clerical work, etc, please let us know by filling out a parent volunteer form. Please check with the office for further information.

CURRICULUM NIGHT SESSIONS

Our curriculum night will be on Thursday, September 21st.

There will be no session in our gym. Parents are encouraged to attend the Curriculum Night.

Our night will be from 6:30 – 8:30.

At 6:30 parents and caregivers are invited to check out our information booths related to our school and school community.

Primary parents are asked to go to their child's class for 7:00. At this time, parents will be given the opportunity to meet their child's teacher, learn about the curriculum outcomes as well as the classroom routines and expectations. **Elementary parents** will go to their child's classroom to meet with their teacher at **7:45**. We look forward to meeting you on September 22th. Mr. Dwyer and Ms. Mallay will be available from 6:30 – 8:30 to discuss any questions you may have about our wonderful new school.

All sessions will be held in your child's classroom at the time stated above. Effective education is a co-operative effort of the **home** and the **school** so we trust that you will make every effort to attend.

No Edible Treats Permitted

We do not allow any edible treats to be brought into our school by parents/caregivers to be shared with other students (this includes special occasions such as Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Birthdays, etc). There are many students in our school with serious life threatening allergies and other conditions. The risk is too large to allow the sharing of food products. If these treats are brought into the school, we will respectfully turn them away. Thanks in advance for your cooperation with regards to this new school based policy.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

We are in the process of having a new website. Parents and caregivers are asked to check out our website. We will have it updated with the necessary information needed for this school year. Also, please subscribe to receive emails from the school.

TWITTER

We are encouraging all our parents and caregivers to sign up for a free twitter account and follow our school **@stteresasschool1**. We use twitter to write about many of the wonderful things that are going on in our school. You can checkout our school website at www.stsnl.ca and click on the twitter icon to check out our school tweets.



SCHOOL LUNCH REGISTRATION AND ENVELOPES

Registration forms and envelopes are available at the office if you are not able to do it online. The deadline for the envelopes is Wednesday, Sept 13. Please have them in on time as the School Lunch Association will not accept late envelopes.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

For regular **arrival** purposes in the morning all students in grades K-6 will use the main entrance. Kindergartens may also use the side kindergarten entrance.

Students will be using the following exits at dismissal time:

Kindergarten and grade 5 – side kindergarten entrance

Grade 1, 2 and 6 – main entrance

Grade 3 and 4- side grade 3 entrance (right side of building)

These procedures are subject to change if needed.

Parents /caregivers can pick up their child (ren) from the teacher at the assigned entrance.

We are asking all parents/caregivers not to wait in the entrances of our school as the congestion in these areas pose a safety and security risk for our students. Please wait outside. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this area.

Any student who is being picked up by a daycare provider can wait in the designated daycare waiting area by the gym. Signs are posted indicating where to wait and supervision will be provided.

FOOD SERVICE- SCHOOL LUNCH

We are very pleased that our school is equipped with a cafeteria where the St. John's School Lunch Association offers a lunch program for Grades K – 6 students. The School Lunch Association requires parents to register their children each school year, in order to participate in the program.

The School Lunch is proud to operate a non-stigmatizing program that provides hot, nutritious lunches to primary and elementary school children, regardless of their family's ability to pay. Registration forms will go home with the students on September 8th. **Parents do not complete paper registration if they have already registered online.** Please note the following important dates from the School Lunch Association:

Friday, September 8th- Registration forms distributed to schools

Friday, September 15th – Registration forms return date

Friday, September 15th – School lunch envelopes return date

Monday, September 25th- first day serving lunch for program

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

We have created our school development plan for the 2017-18 school year. We will focus on three main goals for the upcoming school year.

Goal 1: Improve Student success through enhanced learning, teaching, and assessment aligned with 21st Century Learning (this goal will have a continued strong focus on student literacy and mathematical development).

Goal 2: Continue to build and foster a school culture that is safe, caring, healthy and socially just.

Goal 3: Continue to build a more inclusive school environment through effective communication, celebration and promotion of our school community to all stakeholders.

PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE -STUDENT/SCHOOL SECURITY



In an attempt to create a safe and secure environment for all students we ask all students, parents/ guardians or any visitor who comes to the school during the regular school hours to use the main entrance. Here you will be buzzed into the school by our office staff. **Please do not proceed to the classroom area without first checking with the office.** We will gladly assist if you are dropping off an item for your child(ren) or picking them up. This school policy will allow our staff to know who is in the building at all times and ensure the safety and security of all our students. We are also requiring that students who arrive late to be signed in at the office and also sign out if leaving early. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

**** We realize that the first few days of school students and parents are adjusting to the new routines, therefore, feel free to come into the school with your child to help them settle in (especially our kindergarten or new students). We do ask that as your child becomes comfortable with the school routine; let him or her come into the school/classroom by themselves as we are trying to encourage independence in our students.**

Medication Policy

In accordance with School Board policy, all (prescription) student medication must be brought to the office. Prescription medication can only be administered by the parent, or by school personnel with the signed permission of the parent, and a Physician. Permission for the administration of medication to students can only occur once parents have completed the appropriate School Board form. As there are a number of students in the school that require daily medication for most or all of the school year, time does not permit us to accommodate requests to administer medication for short term illnesses (e.g. ear and throat medication).

ALLERGIES



Some of our students and staff have *serious allergies* that can result in these people suffering from a *life threatening condition known as Anaphylaxis*. Breathing difficulties, and a drop in blood pressure or shock can result which are *potentially fatal*.

To help ensure that our students and staff are safe at school **please avoid sending the following food items:**

All nuts – including peanuts, eggs and kiwi.

Your understanding and co-operation in this matter is sincerely appreciated.

RECYCLING

We try to teach our students the importance of being respectful to our environment. Recycling is a fantastic program that promotes environmental awareness and provides funds for our school. We encourage everyone to participate in our recycling program. **Please drop off your recyclables every Wednesday morning starting September 27th.** In the meantime, families may drop off their recyclables to your nearest recycling depot and have the refund credited to St. Teresa's School.

SchoolConnects Notify Automated Phone System

All schools in our district have access to an automated phone system called SchoolConnects Notify. This system can access all families by phone in a short period of time. In the past we have used SchoolConnects Notify to remind families of upcoming activities or school closures. SchoolConnects Notify can only be effective if we have accurate phone information for each family. **If your phone number, or emergency contact number, changes during the year, it is important that the Office be notified so we can keep our phone numbers updated and accurate.**

Nutrition Policy

We continue to promote the District's Nutrition policy which focuses on healthy eating. We are requesting that parents be mindful of this when preparing snacks for recess. We would request that items such as chips, cheezies, candy and energy drinks not be included as snacks.



Take Out Food

We are requesting that parents not drop off fast food for students to eat at school during lunch. If you wish to provide this treat for your child, we ask that you take them out to lunch.

Breakfast Club

This year we will once again have our breakfast club on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This will take place in our school cafeteria. Our Breakfast club will begin Oct. 6th and will be open to all students in grades k-6. We will once again be looking for volunteers to help us with this program.

School Closeout Days for professional development purposes.

Our school will have 5 professional development days this year. During these days school will be closed to allow staff to receive training, without negatively impacting the instruction our student receive.

During this year our "Close-out Days" may take the form of a full day or part day school wide closeout when all students remain home. An alternative may be to identify one grade level for school closeout. The general rule is that for any given student the total amount of time that they would be expected to stay home because of teacher in-service is five days.

As soon as our PD days are scheduled, you will be notified so that alternate arrangements can be made for your child(ren). We will attempt to do this as soon as possible, so that ample time is given for you to make alternative plans.

We will have two scheduled closure(s) for professional development between October and November. As soon as we are notified we will let you know immediately so that arrangements can be made for daycare.

Parent Pointer

"A child's belief in themselves is largely a reflection of the extent to which they see



significant others believing in them".

Take time in the next couple of weeks to set realistic goals and expectations for your child. Let them know they are a success. Our children need to feel acceptance, success, enjoyment and control.

Important Dates

Wednesday, Sept 13-School lunch envelopes are due
Thursday, Sept 21 – Curriculum Night
Thursday, Sept 28 – School Photos
Monday, Sept 25-School lunch starts
Friday, Sept 29 – School Closed PD for teachers
Tuesday, Oct 3 – KES Walk to Breakfast
Thursday, Oct 5 -Thanksgiving Assembly@ 11:00am
Monday, Oct 9 – Thanksgiving Holiday