



DeWitt Carter Public School

Dragon's Digest

September 2017 "Respect"



Mr. T. Acaster - Principal
Mr. M. Herfst - Vice Principal
Ms. M. Sager - Secretary

Mr. John Dickson - Superintendent
Mr. Dave Shaubel - School Board Trustee
School Tel. (905)834-7440

DeWitt Carter Public School Mission Statement

"Our mission is to support student learning in a safe environment where all students are motivated to learn and are willing to take risks so they can become positive contributors to our society."

A Message From Mr. Acaster

Welcome Back to the Dagon Lair!"

*I simply cannot believe how quickly time flies during the summer months. It was incredible how quickly the days were filled with the wonders of July and August. Once again, we find ourselves peeking into September and another new school year. The warm days will still be with us but the cool of the evenings is reminding us that autumn is approaching. I hope you had every opportunity to laugh, rest and re-energize. It is so important for strengthening the bonds of family. Our building is buzzing with excitement about the start of this school year. All of our staff members have been in working to make this a great year of teaching and learning. On behalf of all of us here at DeWitt Carter, I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new families and to those who are returning for this new school year. I am really looking forward to a terrific year with parents, students and staff. Please join me in welcoming some new staff members to our school. Mrs. B. Chevalier will be returning to us along with Mrs. K. Gibson, joining our Educational Assistant team. Mrs. L. Slat will be teaching our Grade 7 class, Mrs. T. Lafleur will be teaching Grade 5/6, Mrs. M. Calberry will be teaching our Grade 1/2 class and Mrs. T. DiCostanzo will be joining our Kindergarten team. Mrs. L. McIntyre will be taking over the LRT role for our school this year. Welcome new Dragons! We would also like to wish all of our departing staff members great luck and enjoyment in their new roles. Boys and girls, it is your presence that makes this building a school; it is your positive attitude that makes us smile; it is your perseverance that we hold in esteem; it is your smile that makes this school such a wonderful place in which to be a teacher. We are looking forward to meeting with everyone at our **Open House and BBQ**, which will be held on the evening of **Wednesday, September 20th, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.***

Reminder:

*There is an Early Release Day on September 15th.
Students will be dismissed at 12:10 p.m.
Busses will arrive by 12:20 p.m. at the school to transport bussed students to their drop off locations.*

Attendance Matters

Any time you know your child will be absent from school, please call the school prior to 8:30 a.m. or send a note in advance to inform us of the absence. Our school office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and we have an answering machine available 24 hours a day to leave a message.
All students arriving late must report to the office to sign-in before going to class!

Volunteers

We are always grateful for our fantastic parent volunteers. It goes without saying that we welcome and value all of the people who volunteer. If this is something you are interested in, please fill out our volunteer form or call the office. The first **School Council Meeting** of the school year will be held on **Tuesday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m.** in our school Library. Please come out and join us!

Open House and BBQ

On Wednesday, September 20th we will be hosting our annual Open House, welcome back and BBQ. Please come out. It is a great way for the students to brag about what they are doing in class. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.. You can tour classes until 6:30 p.m. Our BBQ begins at 5:30 p.m.

Student Agendas

The use of Student Agendas is an effective tool for all Grades and they will be handed out during the first week of school. To help offset this cost, we ask that you please pay \$6.75 through the School Cash Online. With the Agenda, we hope that students will feel more sense of responsibility and ownership in the use of this time management and communication tool.

Teachers will instruct the students on how to use the agenda and value in doing so. We need your support in helping your child to manage the use of the agenda from home. It still is an effective communication and organizational tool for our families, students and teachers.

Student Verification Forms

It is mandatory to review, make changes, sign and return the Student Verification Form to the homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

It is extremely important that we have a local emergency contact telephone number for your child at all times! Most of our school families have consented for the school to release the names, photographs, video images, and/or accomplishments of our students. **If at this time you wish to change your consent to this release of information, please contact the school.**

Breakfast Club

Ask anyone-----we have an incredible Breakfast Program for students to get a nutritious start to their day. Patty Moss, one of our DeWitt Carter parents, works hard to organize this wonderful program for our students.

This year the breakfast club will start on Friday, September 8th. The program runs Monday to Friday from 8:35 a.m. to 8:55 a.m.

To keep the Breakfast Program running efficiently, we are looking for volunteers. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact the school.

Students will not be let into Breakfast Club until 8:35 a.m. to provide the volunteers enough time for preparation of the food.

Character Matters!

At DeWitt Carter, we will always work hard to continue to assist our students in developing a positive value system. We will continue to emphasize positive character traits in class and through our Monthly Student of the Month certificates. *Our character is the way we act when nobody is watching over us.*

Students - Get Involved

Boys and Girls - this is your school! It will be what you make of it. Make this the year you try out for a new team or join a new club. It is a great way to develop team and school spirit and to increase your self-confidence and skills. Cross Country and Intermediate Soccer will begin early September. Sign up and give it a try!!!!

School Safety Reminders

1. We are asking all of our families to refrain from bringing any pets onto the school property when dropping off and picking up your children. We do not want to risk any accidents with our children.
2. It is sometimes necessary for parents to enter the school at entry and exit times, but we do require that you report to the office and sign in at the visitor's log. **Please do not proceed to any of the classrooms until reporting to the office.** We need to keep the instructional time free from interruptions near the beginning and end of the day.
3. Our staff is on supervision duty at **8:45 a.m.** Please do not send children to the school earlier than this unless you have pre-arranged something with the child's teacher or you are a volunteer of our Breakfast Program. At the end of the day, children should go to their home. It is important for them to "check in with you" before they head to a friend's place, park, etc.
4. **Beginning the second week of school.** If you bring your child to school in the morning, we ask that you "Say goodbye" on the outside of the fence and send the children through the gate. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Electronic Communications

Please check out upcoming information on our DeWitt Carter school website. We will be communicating information more and more through this avenue. This newsletter is available electronically and can be found at <http://dewittcarter.dsbm.org>



Supervision

Teachers are on duty from 8:45 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. and again during the Fitness/Nutrition Breaks. Students are instructed to remain within the school playground boundaries under the supervision of staff at all times. Please assist us in stressing this information to your children. Students who eat lunch at school eat in their own classroom under the supervision of Lunchroom Supervisors and DeWitt Carter Staff.

Students must stay on school property at all times, if they remain at school for lunch. If students are leaving school property to go to their own home for lunch it must be preceded by written permission from the parent/guardian who then assumes responsibility for the child at this time.

Picture Day

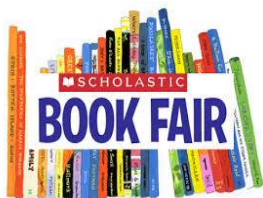
Say cheese! Lasting Images will be here on Thursday, October 5th for student and class photos. A reminder will be sent home closer to this date.



Book Fair

Our school will be running the Scholastic Book Fair from Tuesday, September 19th to Friday, September 22nd. Classes will be given an opportunity to go to the Book Fair and see what is available.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help with Book Fair, please see Mr. Herfst.



School-Based immunization Clinics

Once again, the HPV, Menactra and Hepatitis B vaccinations will be offered free to our Grade 7 students through Niagara Region Public Health's school-based immunization clinics.



Parent/student information packages will be coming home with grade 7 students closer to the scheduled inoculation date. The first scheduled inoculation date is November 9th. For more information, speak to our school nurse or call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 extension#7425.

Anaphylaxis and other Medical Concerns

All parents should be aware that there are children in our school with life threatening food allergies to peanut butter which can cause an anaphylaxis reaction. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and is potentially life threatening.

If your child has any allergy or requires medication, please tell us. With your help, we can complete the appropriate forms and do our very best to make sure all of our students are safe, healthy and able to concentrate on learning. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Please make sure that you are sending foods to our school that are free from peanuts, nut oils or nut products.

Public Health

DeWitt Carter would like to welcome this year's school nurse Jayne Siba. Our school nurse will be working alongside school staff to consult and support on health topics, provide resources and curriculum-based lesson plans, support parent events, and assist with creating a Healthy School environment for all. If you have any questions, please email:

jayne.siba@niagararegion.ca