

FROM THE DeWITT CARTER DRAGON's DEN

Summer 2015

Have a Wonderful, Safe Summer!

Happy Canada Day

Before each of us head to our summer haunts, I want to say thank you to our DeWitt Carter families for helping to make this a fulfilling year. Have a long, relaxing summer. Hit the beach, go for a long bike ride, play catch and re-charge. Staff, I truly appreciate your dedication and professionalism. It shows each day and I want to acknowledge how fortunate I feel to be part of this team.

I would also like to welcome a few new staff members to our Dragon's Den and wish leaving Dragons a fond farewell. Teaching grade one next year is Ms. Dianna Piazza, We will have a new DECE working with Mrs. Churchill. Her name is Ms. Melissa Wotherspoon. We also have a new Educational Assistant, Ms. Brandilee Babcock joining our team. At this point we are currently in the hiring process for one more teaching position as well. Finally, I would like to welcome our new Vice Principal, Michael Herfst to Port Colborne.

Sadly, we have to say good bye to a few well-loved colleagues. Miss Sweeney is heading to Richmond Street School this fall and Ms. Robins is going to be an Educational Assistant with Bertie and Ridgeway Schools. Mrs. Maddalena is going to the Kindergarten team at Gordon School in Welland. Lastly, Mr. Mayhew is heading to Princess Elizabeth in Welland, as the new Vice Principal there. We are all going to

miss you. You have made important contributions to our school, students and community. All the best!

School Council Update

Parents- please consider coming out for School Council next year. We appreciate the support and look forward to having a great group for our 2015-16 year.

Our first meeting is already scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th - 6:00 p.m. This is an exciting and meaningful role - come on out.

Kindergarten Classes

We will be setting up our Kindergarten classes for the students starting Junior and Senior Kindergarten in September 2015. Mrs. Laur and Mrs. Churchill will be sending this information to the Kindergarten families through a mail out at the end of June. In the letter, they will notify you of the class room teacher and some "good to know" ideas for the first day of class.

We have a staggered entry for Junior Kindergarten students. Our Senior Kindergarten students will come on Tuesday and continue for the week. Parents of Junior Kindergarten students will be informed in the letter of their child's first day of school (the Orientation Day) which

will be on one of the days of our first week back to school.

I would just like to remind families who are new to the school that we have every day, full day classes at DeWitt Carter. Our classes start at 8:55 with our Grade 1 to 8 classes and go until 3:20 p.m.

Class Organization for September

Again this year, we wish to inform all of our students and parents that we will be formally organizing classroom placements in August. Class lists for grades 1 to 8 will be posted on the first day of school in several locations around the building.

With the Ministry directions on class size in the primary grades, we wish to avoid as much disruption for the coming school year as possible. As such, class lists are not finalized until this point so that we have a firmer idea of the number of students enrolled for our 2015/16 school year.

Gr. 1	Mrs. Piazza
Gr1/2	Mrs. Meinzinger
Gr. 2/3	Mr. Fraipont
Gr. 3	Mrs. Forand
Gr. 4/5	Mrs. Froude
Gr. 5/6	Mrs. Garcia
Gr. 6/7	Mr. Turonski /our new hire
Gr. 8	Mr. Curran
French	Mrs. Winn
Phys. Ed.	Mr. Turonski
LRT	Mrs. Zanutto

First Day Back

It is probably the last thing on many people's minds right now, but the first day of classes is on September 8th, the day after Labour Day. Please bring your children on to the playground and look for one of the posted sets of class lists. Teachers will be identifiable by name tags and safety vests the first day. Any students who arrive on the bus will be greeted and directed to the appropriate school yard entrance. Our primary classes line up at the South entrances and our junior/intermediate classes line up at our North entrance. If it is raining, we will bring students into the gym. If that is the case, we will have to ask parents of grade one to eight students to depart at that time.

For the first week of school, if you feel it will help in the transition, please feel free to accompany your child during the pre entry time on the playground. I would ask that as we enter the second week, parents kiss and wave to their children at the gates (or Kiss and Ride, if you drive your child in to school).

Moving Over the Summer Months?

Parents / Guardians please note that the Transportation Department will be open during regular hours for the summer months. In the event of a move over the summer and transportation had been arranged or may be required at the new location, please call **(905-346-0290)** to

update student records and to ensure that bussing services will not be interrupted.

Bus routes are organized in advance and this will be appreciated by our Transportation Department. If you are moving over the summer, please contact us at the school as well. This assists us in organizing our classes for next year.

Design, Science and Technology

At the District School Board of Niagara, our grade 7 and 8 students go to a special class once per cycle for a half day. The class is held at Port Colborne High Secondary School and the teacher is Mr. Jamie Groat. Bussing of students is provided through the Transportation Department. This is a valuable addition to our own Science Curriculum. I will be sending more information home with the students in September, indicating the time, term and days of their DS&T classes. If you have any questions about the program, please contact me at the school.

Breakfast Club

We would like to thank all of our awesome B.C. volunteers from the community who have given countless hours for our children. We really appreciate this time and effort you have put in. We could not have done it without you!

We would like to take this time to ask if there are any parents, uncles, aunts or grandparents interested in helping out with our Breakfast Club next year. We can use the extra hands in the kitchen. Please call us at the school, at 905 834 7440. Thank you

School Supplies

Once August rolls around, parents start to plan their back to school shopping. All supplies to run our curriculum are provided by the school. However it is beneficial if the students come to school with their own writing utensils. This would be:

- pencil crayons/markers /crayons for colouring
- pencils (and pens for our intermediate students) for writing
- A simple arithmetic calculator for our junior and intermediate students
- A math/compass set for intermediate students
- One or two binders with a package of three ring paper for junior and intermediate students
- Indoor shoes for all students; Phys. Ed. Clothes for students in grades 4 to 8

When students arrive in September, their classroom teachers will give more specifics to material needs.



News from Track & Field

Our DeWitt Carter track and Field team saw 6 athletes move on to the final DSBN Track and Field Meet

Emma Laur 100m and 400m - Finished 8th at DSBN

Ethen Molar 100m

Shiloh Slater Triple Jump

Leslie Buick Triple Jump

Taryn Snider Long Jump

Jordyn Goins Long, Triple and High Jump -

Finished 5th Long Jump, 3rd Triple Jump and

7th High Jump

Congratulations to our athletes and to their

coaches for all of their hard work!

Working on Math Throughout the Summer

Math exists everywhere around us. How can we, as parents, help our children develop in math? Where could we find it? What could we ask? What could we say? How can we help our children practice mathematics concepts taught at school in a fun non-academic way?

Math allows us to make sense of our world. Connecting school math to the world strengthens a child's understanding. As you go through your summer ask your children questions such as: What do you notice? and What are you wondering? These questions help support them to see math in the world around them, much the same way we work on finding literacy in our world. Here are a few examples and possible questions to ask...



How many?
Which has more?
By how much?
How many have been eaten?



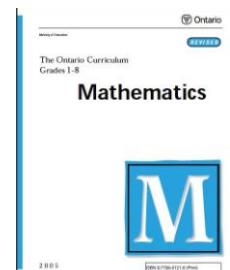
What patterns do you see?
What shapes do you see? Which colour has more?



What shapes do you see? How tall are the buildings? Which one is tallest?
By about how much is it taller? How do you know?

The five math strands in our curriculum contain different content and different experiences. Here are a few of the verbs related to the strands. Look for opportunities to work on these actions of learning math informally throughout the summer.

- Number Sense & Numeration (estimate, compare, solve problems, etc.)
- Measurement (estimate, measure, record, compare, construct, etc.)
- Geometry & Spatial Sense (sort, classify, build, construct, etc.)
- Patterning & Algebra (identify, create, describe, solve problems, etc.)
- Data Management & Probability (collect, read, predict, interpret, experiment, etc.)



There are lots of activities and games (card games, dice games, board games, puzzles, etc.) that we could play that are engaging and fun. As well, similar to reading regularly with children to develop literacy, interacting with children while playing these games is one way to support math development.

