

## FROM THE DeWITT CARTER DRAGON's DEN

### Summer 2018

#### Have a Wonderful, Safe Summer!

##### Are you counting down to....?



I know that we all are very excited about the approaching summer holidays. Soon, we will all be enjoying sun-filled days where tests and projects are shelved and forgotten – well, at least for a couple months. I hope every one of you has a wonderful summer. I hope you visit with friends and family and laugh until your sides are sore. I hope that you get to run and play at the beach, the park or wherever the days of summer take you. Thank you to all of our wonderful families for making 2017-18 such a great year. Have a long, relaxing summer. Whatever you do, make sure you stay safe and have fun.

Staff, you cannot know how much I love coming to work here. I was asked what I am most proud of here and I said that it was the way in which you all come together to help the students and each other. You always put other's feelings ahead of your own. You take care of people. We all know the dedication this career requires and you display that from

September until June. I take every opportunity I can to brag about this team. I hope you know what a great difference you make in the lives of our students and families.

##### Welcome to our New Dragons

I would like to welcome new staff members to our Dragon's Den and wish leaving Dragons a fond farewell. Our welcome list is long this year. We have several new teachers coming to us in September. Mrs. Feduck, Mrs. Boyer, Mr. De Waard, Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Slat will be joining the team. In addition, we will have Mrs. Churchill and Mr. Herfst returning to the den. At this point we are currently in the hiring process for our Grade 5/6 class.

Sadly, we have to say good-bye to a few well-loved colleagues. Mrs. Piazza is heading to Edith Cavell to teach Kindergarten. Mrs. Nicholls is going to be close by her, at Connaught School. Mrs. Wood will be heading to St. David's School and Mrs. McBride is going to Richmond School to teach intermediate. On our Educational Assistant team, Mrs. Foster is going to be joining the team at Power Glen. Folks, we will miss you. To each of you, your presence here was a gift to the rest of us. The contributions you have made to this school, for our students, are going to leave a lasting impact. All the best!

### **School Council Update**

Parents- please consider coming out for School Council next year. It is a great way to get involved with the school. Our parent group does tremendous work for our school and our students and we are always welcoming of new parents.

Our first meeting is already scheduled for Tuesday, September 25th - 6:00 p.m. This is an exciting and meaningful role - come on out.

### **Kindergarten Classes**

In June, we will be setting up our Kindergarten classes for the students starting Junior and Senior Kindergarten in September, 2018. Mrs. Laur and Mrs. Dicostanzo 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 classroom teacher and some "good to know" ideas for the first day of class.

***We will not be having a staggered entry for Junior Kindergarten students.*** All of our Kindergarten students will start on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Class Organization for September**

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 directives on class sizes 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 2018/19 school year. Currently, our organization looks like this:

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| KG 1       | Mrs. Laur & Mrs. Hurst                      |
| KG 2       | Mrs. Churchill                              |
| Gr. 1      | Mrs. Feduck                                 |
| Gr. 1/2    | Mrs. Meinzinger                             |
| Gr. 3      | Mrs. Boyer                                  |
| Gr. 3/4    | Mr. Fraipont                                |
| Gr. 4/5    | Mrs. Froude                                 |
| Gr. 5/6    | Will be hired in July/shared with Mrs. Rice |
| Gr. 6/7    | Mr. DeWaard                                 |
| Gr. 7/8    | Mrs. Slat                                   |
| French     | Mme. Winn                                   |
| Phys. Ed.  | Mr. Turonski                                |
| LRT        | Mrs. McIntyre & Mrs. Rice                   |
| VP/Library | Mr. Herfst                                  |
| Principal  | Mr. Acaster                                 |

### **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 4th, 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 safety vests on the first morning. 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 entrances. 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 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.

### **Breakfast Club**

As we approach the end of June I want everyone to know just how grateful we are to have the dedicated group of community members and parents who help us each morning with our wonderful Breakfast Club program. You have given up so many hours for us – we thank you from the bottom of our hearts (right near our full tummies, thanks to you). An extra special “thank you” goes to Patty Moss. This program could not be the fine example of a Breakfast Club that it is without your tireless work!

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.

