

## SEPTEMBER 2008



### WELCOME BACK!

It is that time of year when we wait in anticipation for our students to walk through the Kate S. Durdan School doors at 8:25 a.m. on this Tuesday morning. Our students are probably wondering what this year will bring, in terms of exciting things that they will learn, the new friends

they will meet and the activities that are in store for them. It will be wonderful to hear all the chatter about their summer vacations!

As a staff, we welcome everyone back and extend a special welcome to families who are new to our community as well as to our families who have children just beginning their adventure in Junior Kindergarten.

We have much to share with you and all of us are looking forward to our continued partnership. I am very honoured to be working alongside such as dedicated staff at Kate S. Durdan School! We trust that throughout the year, both teachers and parent(s)/guardian(s), will communicate closely so that we can work for the benefit of each child. We welcome your active involvement and your ongoing interest in the daily events, activities and programs at our

school. With your support, this will truly be another successful school year for all of us.

### ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

With today's September 2008 newsletter, the following will be tagging along:

✓ *Student Verification Form.* Please make the necessary changes and return the completed form, front and back, to school *tomorrow*. We absolutely must have on record, current phone numbers, addresses and contact information in order to reach you during the school day.

✓ *Nutrition Break Application/Contract.* We request that this form be returned to the school tomorrow as well.

✓ Kate S. Durdan School fridge magnet

### ✓ *Student Accident Insurance Information*

Each year a Student Accident Insurance Plan is made available for all students on a voluntary basis. The plan provides protection for **DENTAL DAMAGE DUE TO ACCIDENTS, FRACTURE BENEFITS AND OTHER IMPORTANT COVERAGES**, which are **NOT** covered under the Provincial Health Plan. Some parents may have Dental Plan coverage through their work but many of these plans are limited in one way or another, while this accident coverage is not. Compare to make sure you have the coverage you need or desire.

**UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT THE BOARD IS NOT PERMITTED TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACCIDENTS TO STUDENTS, THEREFORE,** the DSBN recommends consideration of this plan to any parent who wishes to obtain this kind of insurance. Although the policy has all the advantages of a group plan, it is essentially a direct contract between the parent and the insurance company. If you wish to subscribe to this insurance, please complete the form and mail it *directly* to Reliable Life Insurance Company preferably before **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.** You may also enroll online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) (for all plans except the \$3.50 basic plan).

✓ **AGENDA** payment form. We are only requesting \$5.00 per agenda this year, to be returned to the school on or before September 9, 2008.

These items above have been sent home from the office on the *first day* of school. Please expect the following to arrive sometime during the *first week* of school:

- ✓ District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) calendar.
- ✓ Kate S. Durdan School Calendar
- ✓ Code of Behaviour QUIZ
- ✓ Parent's Guide to Kate S. Durdan Safe School QUIZ
- ✓ School Council Nomination Form
- ✓ Netiquette Contract for students in Grades 4- 8

**AND HERE WE ARE:**

We are pleased to welcome our Kate S. Durdan School staff back from their summer vacation:

Mrs. Klepacs	Grade 1
Mrs. Hill	Grade 1 / 2
Mrs. Sijm	Grade 2/3
Mrs. Snowden	Grade 3
Mrs. Libera	Grade 3/4
Mrs. Dumanski	Grade 4
Mrs. Lane *	Grade 5
Mr. Paquet	Grade 6

Miss Di Franco*	Grade 7/Grade 5 French as a Second Language
Mrs. Wittig*	Grade 7
Mr. Stayzer	Grade 7/8
Mrs. Scheer	Grade 8
Mrs. Bylsma*	Special Education <i>Junior Intermediate Classroom (J/I Classroom)</i>
Mrs. Cahill	Special Education <i>Intensive Support Program (ISP)</i>
Mrs. Birnie	Learning Resource Teacher (LRT)
Mrs. Clegg	JK/SK (am and pm)
Mrs. Petrucci*	JK/SK (am and pm)
Mrs. Van Noort*	Music/Drama&Dance
Mr. Pickering	Physical Education/Health
Miss Smiljanic	English as a Second Language (ESL) and Librarian
Mrs. Krieger	English as a Second Language (ESL)
Mrs. Scozzafava	French as a Second Language (FSL)
Mrs. Dionne	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Marion*	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Angle	(Administrative Assistant)
Miss MacArthur*	Child Care Worker
Mrs. Stuart	Child Youth Worker
Mrs. Weerdenburg	Principal
Mr. Beales	Caretaker
Mr. St. Pierre	Caretaker
Mrs. Fortino	Nutrition/Fitness Break Supervisor
Mrs. Weston	Nutrition/Fitness Break Supervisor
Mrs. Haennsgen	Nutrition/Fitness Break Supervisor

**\*A very special welcome to our newest staff members!**

Please note that your child's classroom placement will be finalized during the first two weeks of school. With families registering during the last week of August and the first week of September, it may have an effect on our classroom organization. Should this be the case, the changes will be communicated to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the students involved in the re-organization of classrooms, as soon as possible.

## **MEET THE STAFF OPEN HOUSE**

**Thursday, September 11, 2008 from 6-7 p.m.**

Students are encouraged to bring their parents and family members to introduce them to their teacher as well as show off the educational environment that will be their home for the next ten months. Please be aware of other families who also want to say hello to the teacher. Should the staff see that a line up is forming, he/she may welcome you back another time to discuss things with the teacher in greater length. Also, your child has been prompted on how to make proper introductions so let's see what happens! We are looking forward to meeting you.

## **MILK /PIZZA**

Our MILK program has begun on this first day of school with milk available for the first and second nutrition break. This year, every time you purchase a page of tickets (30 cartons for \$20.00) your child will receive one special milk prize from the Milk Marketing board (either a memory card game, post it notes, backpack dangler; bookmark/ruler, mini hockey puck or a gel ice pack, while supplies last) as a thank you for choosing milk. We have maintained our prices to make milk affordable for your family.

Our PIZZA days will be on *Tuesday* this year (except two Wednesdays which are noted on the Kate S. Durdan School Calendar). Prices have also remained the same (20 pizza or crazy bread tickets for \$20.00). We are very pleased to announce that the Grade 8 students, under the supervision of Mrs. Scheer, will be helping with the Pizza program. Monies will be directed towards their Grade 8 year end trip. Our first Pizza Day (only during the second nutrition break) will begin on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

## **IMPORTANT DATES (FOR SEPTEMBER)**

*Thursday, September 11:* OPEN HOUSE  
6-7 p.m.

*Monday, September 15:* Early Release Day. This means that students will be dismissed at 11:40 a.m. on this day. Afternoon JK/SK will be cancelled for this day.

*Tuesday, September 16:* PHOTO Day

*Friday, September 19:* TERRY FOX  
WALK/RUN

## **WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE OUR SCHOOL!**

Our school is so clean that we can only thank our caretaking team: Mr. Beales, Mrs. Fortino and Mrs. Trapasso! Cleaning a school is quite a process and when you see our school you will truly be impressed! Thank you to our caretaking staff for making sure that everything is spotless for the new school year.

## **TERRY FOX WALK OR RUN**

This year is the 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Terry Fox Run. We will support this cause on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 with our Grade 1-8 students walking 2 km on our playing field at various times throughout the school day. Our JK/SK students will walk 1 km around our neighbourhood. Any financial donations will be appreciated on this day.

## **A REMINDER TO PARENTS**

Should parents need to drop off items for their child during the school day, we ask that you bring it directly to the office and not the classroom. This will ensure the least disruption to teaching as well as support our Safe Schools Plan. In addition, parents who are coming to meet their child at the end of the school day are asked to wait outside of the building to ensure the smooth and safe dismissal of ALL our students. Should your child need to be picked up sometime during the school day for an appointment, please inform the teacher by writing in your child's agenda or note and come to the office when picking up your child. Your child will then meet you at the office. We ask that you sign out your child in our binder at the office to indicate that you have taken your child from school. Requests from parents who call the school and ask that their child meet them outside the school or walk home during the school day, will be denied, since we do not have call display, nor do we know if the parent is the caller.

Sometime closer to the end of September, both Loretto Catholic School and Kate S. Durdan School will use a Card Access system whereby ALL doors in the building will be locked at all times. Should parents require entry into the building, they will need to ring via an outside buzzer system outside at the main office entry. This is a important component of our Safe School Plan. Details will follow as this process begins.

## **DSBN'S NEW POLICY TO CREATE A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS**

As a parent, your child's safety and well-being is important to you. At the DSBN, we firmly believe that a safe learning environment is essential for students to succeed. In June 2007, the provincial government passed Bill 212, the *Education Amendment Act, (Progressive Discipline and School Safety)*. Its provisions took effect on February 1, 2008. The DSBN's Policy Advisory Committee reviewed existing policies, and either maintained, revised or replaced them. *The following are highlights of the policies and practices required by the legislation, several of which are already DSBN policy:*

- Bullying is a behaviour for which students can be suspended
- Students who are suspended will have the opportunity to continue learning and homework packages will be made available to students who are suspended for five days or fewer, ensuring they don't fall behind their peers .
- Activities that negatively impact the school environment, such as inappropriate online behaviour, including cyber-bullying, may result in suspension. A student may face discipline even if the inappropriate behaviour does not occur on school grounds, school sanctioned trips, or during school hours. A progressive discipline approach will be taken when determining consequences for inappropriate behaviour

Thank you for working with us as we continue to nurture a school climate that supports learning and encourages students to achieve to their fullest potential.

### **OUR NEWSLETTER**

Our Newsletter will arrive in this same format and it will usually arrive sometime during the last week of each month with either the OLDEST or ONLY child in the family.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Please consider joining our School Council. The candidate self nomination form will be arriving shortly to your home with each child. Please join us for our meeting on September 23, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

## **NUTRITION FOR STUDENTS**

Our school will be supporting a Nutrition "Snack Basket" program this year and not the Breakfast program. A basket of food (fresh fruit, peanut free granola bars, fruit cups, puddings, juice boxes etc.) will always be available at the office in a basket for students who have come to school hungry. We appreciate the financial support from Niagara's Nutrition Partners to make this possible for students.

### **OUR GREEN TEAM**

We will be making a concerted effort to be a 'greener' school focusing on conservation and our environment and at the same time making for healthier lifestyles. Students from Grades 4-8 will have the opportunity to join the Green Team. For starters, enclosed with this newsletter is a pamphlet about The Waste-Free Lunchbox with some helpful tips for you. Have you considered the following?

Try placing sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and treats in a reusable lunch container. Try using cloth napkins, stainless-steel forks and spoons, reusable drink containers and reusable lunch boxes. If you already use some of these items, congratulations! You are one step closer to a waste free lunchbox. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice, but they are less expensive as well.

### **NO CHILD WITHOUT**

Our school is involved in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's *No Child Without* program. There is no cost for students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday to join MedicAlert through this program. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider this program. A child's 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 go to [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 1-800-668-150 to update your child's file.