

SEPTEMBER 2011



WELCOME BACK!

It's 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 a 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 help this will truly be another successful school year for all of us.

ON THIS FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

With today's September 2010 newsletter, the following will be tagging along:

✓ ***Student Information 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, correct address and contact information in order to reach you during the school day.

✓ ***Nutrition Break Application/Contract*** for all our Grades 1-8 students to be returned to the school **tomorrow** as well.

✓ ***Student Accident Insurance Information***

Each year a Student Accident Insurance Plan is made available for all students on a voluntary basis.

These are the items that will be sent home from the office on the first day of school. Please expect the following to arrive on the second day of school :

✓**AGENDA** Form requesting \$5.00 for each AGENDA to be sent to the school on or before September 20, 2011.

✓**School Council Candidate Nomination Form** (returned only if you are interested in becoming a member) on or before September 27, 2011.

✓ **Netiquette Contract** (ALL Grade 4 students and students in Grades 5-8 who are NEW to our school. This is due September 20, 2011.

AND HERE WE ARE:

We are pleased to welcome all staff back from their summer vacation:

Mrs. Angle	(Administrative Assistant)
Mrs. Klepacs	Grade 1
Mrs. Bylsma	Grade 1/2
Mrs. Sijm	Grade 2
Miss Paul*	Grade 2/3
Mrs. Libera	Grade 3
Mrs. Tachjian	(maternity leave)
Mr. Wiens/Mrs/Snowden	Grade 4
Miss Storr	Grade 4/5
Mrs. McCarthy	Grade 6
Mrs. Snowden	Grade 7
Mrs. Shakespeare	Grade 8
Miss Van Lierop	Grade 7/8 Health
Mrs. Cahill	Learning Resource Teacher (LRT)
Mrs. Clegg	JK/SK (a.m. and p.m.)
Miss Smiljanic	JK/SK(a.m.)/ESL/Library
Miss Pantelich*	French as a Second Language
Miss Cade	French as a Second Language
Mrs. Scozzafava	(returning December, 2011)
Mr. Andrews	Grade 7 Math/Phys.Ed.
Mrs. Krieger	English as a Second Language (ESL)/ Dance
Mrs. Hillhouse *	Educational Assistant
Miss Gelok	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Tyminski	(formerly Miss Sullivan) Youth Worker (at Kate S. Durdan School every MONDAY)
Mrs. Weerdenburg	Principal
Mr. Beales	Caretaker
Mr. St. Pierre	Caretaker
Mrs. Fortino	Nutrition/Fitness Break Supervisor
Miss Warner	Nutrition/Fitness Break Supervisor
Mrs. Haennsngen	Nutrition/Fitness Break Supervisor
Mrs. Rossi	Parent Worker "Parent & Family Literacy Centre"

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

“MEET THE STAFF”
OPEN HOUSE:
Tuesday, September 20, 2011
6-7 p.m. in the classrooms

Students are encouraged to bring their parents and family members and introduce them to their teacher and to show off the educational environment that will be their home for the next ten months. When you visit us, you will see each of us in a black and white photo shoot in the main lobby. As you look closer you will even see that we are surrounded by items that tell a little story about us. We are not just pretty faces you know! School Council is looking into having Niagara Inflatables set up one of their Bouncers at the back of our school to be ready for 5:30 p.m.. Details will be coming soon! *Please make a point of joining us. We are looking forward to meeting you.* During this time we will also be selling Kate S. Durdan School t shirts for our students for only \$10.00! What a great way for our students to show school spirit by wearing out Kate S. Durdan School Knights t-shirts. These shirts can also be purchased anytime at the office after the first week of school.

AN IMPORTANT “PARKING/DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP YOUR CHILD” MESSAGE

According to By Law #80-77, you cannot park your vehicle, drop off or pick up your child in the lane way closest to Loretto Catholic, YMCA Childcare and Kate S. Durdan School between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.. This will be strictly enforced. Your licence plate may be copied down and referred to the By Law Officer who will be patrolling our area. Please be aware that safety of our children is of utmost importance.

MILK /PIZZA

Our Milk program has begun on this first day of school with milk available for the first and second nutrition break. You may purchase a page of tickets (25 cartons for \$20.00) at the office anytime during the school day. PIZZA days will be on Tuesday once again this year. You may purchase tickets at the office (20 pizza tickets for \$20.00). Volcano Pizza will be supplying our pizza this year. We are very pleased to announce that the Grade 8 students, (under the direction of Mrs. Shakespeare) will be helping with the Pizza program since monies will be directed towards their Grade 8 year end trip and graduation. Our first Pizza Day (always during the second nutrition break only at 12:30 p.m.) will begin September 13th.

WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE OUR SCHOOL!

Our school is so clean that we can only thank our caretaking crew. Cleaning a school is quite a process and when you see our school you will truly be impressed! Thank you caretakers for making sure that everything is spotless for the new school year!

TERRY FOX WALK OR RUN

This year is the 31st Anniversary for the Terry Fox Run. We will support this cause on Friday, September 23rd, 2011 with our Grade 1-8 students walking together beginning at 9:15 a.m.. Our JK/SK students will walk 1 km around our neighbourhood. Your donation means everything on this day in supporting cancer research. We also hope that you get an opportunity to see our very special photo of Terry Fox in our main lobby during our OPEN HOUSE.

A REMINDER TO PARENTS

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 of the children. Should your child need to be picked up sometime during the school day for appointments, please come to the office and wait for your child to arrive at the office. We ask that you sign out your child in our binder to indicate that you have taken your child from school. We also strongly encourage students to remember to bring their lunch and necessary school equipment to school. We are going to be very cautious about allowing students to call home before or during the nutrition breaks for parents to bring their homework, gym clothes or nutrition break food. Please help us in promoting responsibility amongst our students.

BACKPACKS

If we could assist in providing a backpack for your child, please call our school office before the end of the week.

MEDIC ALERT'S *NO CHILD WITHOUT* IS AT OUR SCHOOL

The *No Child Without* program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. MedicAlert is your child's voice in an emergency, MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline.**
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

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. 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 1-866-679-3220 to update your child's file.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Please consider coming to our School Council meetings which are posted in the Kate S. Durdan Calendar. Our Kate S. Durdan School Calendar will now be posted on our website and a month (or two) by moth copy will be attached to our monthly newsletter. Our first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. in our Staffroom. If you are not sure that you want to be member, please consider coming out for this meeting and meet everyone. See you then!

REMEMBER

Early Release Day is September 23, 2011. Students are dismissed at 11:40 a.m. and JK/SK programming for the afternoon is cancelled for this day.

ADOPT A PARK

We are pleased to become partners with Meridian Credit Union in adopting John N. Allen Park. Our Intermediate students will be working alongside Meridian Credit Union staff throughout the year to help keep our park free of litter and beautiful!

KATE S. DURDAN SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Kate S. Durdan School Newsletter is sent home sometime during the last week of each month with the 'oldest' or the 'only' child in the family. The June Newsletter is sent during the second week of June as the last newsletter of the school year.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR AND SAFE SCHOOL PLAN AND CALENDAR

The Kate S. Durdan School Code of Behaviour and the Safe School Plan is available on our school website: www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/schools/KateDurdan. We are working toward becoming an environmentally conscientious school.

CROSSING GUARDS

Students cross with the Crossing Guards at the front of the school on Kalar Road only. Remember the Crossing Guards are members of our staff and students are expected to follow his/her instructions:

Morning: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Nutrition/Fitness Break*: 11:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.
Afternoon: 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

*Note that students will be allowed to go home for the Second Nutrition/Fitness break only since the Crossing Guards are on duty during the second Nutrition/Fitness Break. If students do not go home each day of the week for their second nutrition/fitness break, parents need to provide a written, dated note giving permission for their child to go home. Phone calls to the school giving a child permission to go home for their nutrition break will not be accepted. This is enforced to ensure your child's safety.

Students are also encouraged to arrive at school after 8:10 a.m. since supervision is available at that time. Please support your child in arriving to school on time!

SCHOOL HOURS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-8

ENTRY 8:25 a.m.
Nutrition then Fitness Break # 1 10:10 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Nutrition then Fitness Break # 2* 12:30 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.
DISMISSAL 2:50 p.m.

If parents drive their Grades 1-8 child (ren) to school, the drop off/pick up area is at the Kalar Road Sports Parking lot only.

SCHOOL HOURS FOR STUDENTS IN JUNIOR/KINDERGARTEN

Morning:
ENTRY 8:25 a.m.
DISMISSAL 11:00 a.m.
Afternoon:
ENTRY 12:15 p.m.
DISMISSAL 2:50 p.m.

Parents of JK/SK students must abide by City of Niagara Falls parking by-laws (i.e. bus and taxi zone etc.) at the front of the school at all times.

September 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Welcome</i> your child is going to</p>  <p><i>Back</i></p> <p>be absent, please inform the office at 905-356-0488</p>				1	2	3
4	5 Labour Day 	6 Day 1 First Day of School	7 Day 2	8 Day 3	9 Day 4 Wear your pajamas to school today!	10
11	12 Day 5	13 Day 6 	14 Day 7	15 Day 8 SCHOOL PHOTOS	16 Day 9	17
18	19 Day 10	20 Day 1 MEET THE STAFF OPEN HOUSE 6:00 – 7:00 pm 	21 Day 2	22 Day 3	23 Day 4 TERRY FOX WALKOR RUN at 9:15 a.m. Early Release Day 11:40 a.m.	24
25	26 Day 5	27 Day 6 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING 6:30 pm 	28 Day 7	29 Day 8	30 Day 9 HOT LUNCH 	

