



ALEXANDRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

June 2011

Welcome to June!

I can hardly believe that we have started the last month of school. It seems like not long ago that I was writing my first newsletter as Principal of Alexandra in January. So many things have happened since then. I want to take this time to thank, staff, students and parents for a great year.

Many exciting events await us in June. Students have accomplished a great deal and are almost ready for the rest and relaxation of summer. To the families who are moving from our community and to our grade six students who will be graduating, we wish you all the best in your new schools and hope that you will take many fond memories of Alexandra with you. Always remember to do your best, and do what's right!

Staffing Update

The grade and class organization for September is based on predicted enrolment and staffing. This year, we have experienced an enrolment decline which has affected our staffing allotment for the 2011/2012 school year. Also, the special needs class will no longer be held at Alexandra, it has been moved to Grapeview. Because of these changes, it is with great sadness that we say

goodbye to Mrs. Rose, Ms. Creighton, and Mrs. Simmonds, who will all be moving to other schools in the fall. Mrs. Rose will be teaching at Queen Mary, Mrs. Creighton will be moving to Sheridan Park and Mrs. Simmonds will be going to Lincoln Centennial. We will also be saying goodbye to Ms. Robinson and Ms. Conlon who have been our occasional teaching staff this year. Some Educational Assistants will be leaving us as well. Mrs. Bouchard, Mrs. Roblin and Ms. Doherty will be moving on to other schools. Please join me in wishing all of our departing staff members well in their new assignments next school year. We will definitely miss them here.

We welcome Mme Kubarakos from Queen Mary who will join our French Immersion program in the fall. Together with Mme Berner, they will be our grade 5 FI teachers.

As you can imagine, we will experience many changes for the upcoming school year. Our staff is involved in planning and preparing for this and we anticipate an awesome year!

Volunteer Tea

Coming up this month, we will celebrate all the hard work that our volunteers do on a regular basis. On June 22nd at 9:45 in

our school gym, we will have a time of appreciation and socializing. Please mark this special day on your calendars. Invitations will go out closer to the event.

Thank you to the School Council

I want to say a special thank you to all the parents who have taken the time to serve as members of the school council this year. It is not always easy to take time out of your busy schedules and come to meetings and give of your time. You are truly a remarkable group of people. This was evident in the Fun Fair that we just experienced last week. So much work went into planning such an awesome event for the students and everyone who helped out is to be congratulated for their efforts. I know that we as a staff and the students really appreciated all of your hard work!

We will also be losing many of our key members because their children will be graduating. Please start thinking now of joining us in the fall and being a valuable part of your child's education.

Our final meeting will be on Tuesday, June 7th at 6:30 pm in the staff room.



ALEXANDRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

June 2011

Track and Field

Mrs. Rose and Ms. Creighton would like to congratulate all of the Alexandra students who worked so hard during the Track and Field season. There were many success stories. The following students represented us at the regional meet:

Ben P., Ben T., Connor LW., Damian L., Josh H., Owen SW., Trevor S., Ty L., Wade A., Cassidy M., Emily B., Haleigh R., Haley S., Hannah L., Hunter C., Jenifer DM., Mackenzie WD., Michaela R., Aivry N., Christy A., Hawklene L., Isabella R., Jessica A., Kate M., Sienna C., Sydney H., Braydon H., Caelan S., Connor P., Kyle S., Robert D., Sam G., Tyler S.

Good luck to Cassidy M. who will participate at the final DSBN Track and Field meet at the Niagara Olympic Club on Monday, June 13th.

Progress Reports

Students will receive their Term 2 Report Cards on Tuesday, June 28th. Parents are required to return the response form on Wednesday, June 29th.

There will be no school on Friday, June 10th as this is a report card writing PA day for teachers.

Library

This is the time of year when we need to make sure that the library books are returned to the school. All books need to be back no later than June 9th. Mrs. Rose will begin the inventory process later this month. As you can imagine, this is a very time consuming project and it is very important that we ensure the integrity of our collections. Thank you for your support in this area.

Grade 6 Orientation at QM

Queen Mary will be hosting an Open House for our grade 6 students and their families on Thursday, June 9th from 4:00-6:00. There will not be a half day visitation this year. This will be the only time for students to visit before the fall. This will also be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the many activities Queen Mary offers students academically, athletically and artistically. This is for both the French Immersion and the English programs.

Food and Beverage Policy

Starting September 2011, the Ministry of Education has mandated the following changes for all schools:

- ❖ All food that is sold must follow the 80/20

rule, that is, 80% needs to come from the "sell most" category – there is a method of how this can be calculated

- ❖ Each school has 10 special event days that can be used throughout the year that don't need to follow the 80/20 rule
- ❖ Free food doesn't count – this means that parents can still send in birthday or special treats
- ❖ We will do our best at Alexandra to comply with all of the stipulations of this policy

EQAO

Students in grades three and six will be participating in EQAO testing on June 1, 2 and 3. Students will complete a variety of assessment activities based on the Ontario Curriculum. During this time it is essential that students arrive on time for class, be well rested and bring enough snacks so that they are able to do their best. Please avoid scheduling family trips or appointments during this time. Individual student results will be available in the fall.



ALEXANDRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

June 2011

Save our Subscriptions - S.O.S.

We will be running our annual magazine subscription campaign again in September and would appreciate your continued support. Though there are other companies that may be asking for your new and renewal magazine orders, it would be very much appreciated if you waited for our campaign so the students can take your order. A large portion of the funds stays here in our community, so it is a wonderful fundraiser for our school. Thank you in advance for "saving" your magazine orders and helping make our continued campaign a great success.

Dress Code

With the warmer weather approaching it is necessary to remind students of the DSBN dress code:

- Tops need to have sleeves or straps that have a three finger thickness and they need to cover the mid section/abdomen – no spaghetti straps allowed
- Shorts and skirts should be an appropriate length – standing with arms at your side, the length of the shorts and

skirts should extend beyond the fingertips

- Hats are to be removed before entering the school

Grade 6 Farwell

We will formally be saying good bye to our grade 6 students on Tuesday, June 28th at 6:00 pm in our school gym. The attire will be dressy casual. We will be having a rehearsal in the morning on that day. The ceremony will last for about an hour and then we will be having refreshments. Students should plan on arriving at school no later than 5:45 pm. We are looking forward to an exciting evening.

Moving?

If you do not expect to have your child(ren) enrolled at Alexandra Public School next September because you will be moving out of our area, please inform the school office now. We regret that you will be leaving us but would appreciate knowing ahead of time. If you know of any families moving into the area, please have them contact the office as well.

Year End Assembly

Our final assembly of the year will be on Wednesday, June 29th at 9:15 am in our school

gymnasium. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend this ceremony that will bring another successful year to a close. We will be saying goodbye to various staff members at this time. We will also be revealing the winning bear den! Congratulations to all of the students who have achieved so much this year!

SPLASH!

Celebrate Summer at the St. Catharines Public Library

Add a splash of reading to your summer by joining the children's or tween/teen reading club starting June 25th. Reading clubs are a fun way to improve reading skills over the summer and to win fabulous prizes. Check out our Summer Programs Flyer for details on how you can beat the heat this summer at our sizzlin' summer activities for children, tweens and teens!

For more information, visit any branch of the St. Catharines Public Library, call 905-688-6103 ext. 227 or check us out online at

www.stcatharines.library.on.ca



ALEXANDRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

June 2011

Planning Today to Energize Education Tomorrow

During the 2009/10 school year, the DSBN engaged in a system-wide review of our school buildings which enabled trustees to gain an overview of how our facilities are being used, and to identify potential areas for growth and revitalization in the future.

The majority of school boards throughout Ontario are facing the challenge of declining enrolment because of changing demographics. Parents are having fewer children later in life, which reduces the number of students starting Kindergarten each year.

One way school boards can address the issues of declining enrolment and aging facilities is through accommodation reviews. Through this process, education can be rejuvenated by building some new schools, consolidating some schools, renovating some schools and closing some schools.

At their most recent meeting, Trustees passed a Facilities Planning report which examines how to provide optimal learning spaces for students by initiating three phases of accommodation reviews beginning in September, 2011. Phase one accommodation

reviews will undertake an in-depth study of central and south St. Catharines and Thorold secondary schools as well as elementary schools in Fort Erie.

Over the coming months, Board staff will begin to assemble an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the two reviews. Each committee will undertake an in-depth study of the school planning areas and provide recommendations that will help guide Trustees in their decision making. Each ARC will include a business community member and/or a municipal representative, parents, a trustee, and DSBN staff. All ARC meetings will be open to the public, and the public will also have an opportunity to provide feedback during specially scheduled public meetings.

Moving forward, our goal is to continue serving students with excellent programs. The accommodation review process will ensure that funding is spent on enriching the educational opportunities for students

The full report, along with information about accommodation reviews is available at www.dsbn.org/arc.



Important Dates 2011/12

September 6: 1st Day of School
September 23: Early Release Day
October 5: World Teachers' Day
October 7: PA Day
October 10: Thanksgiving Day
November 11: Remembrance Day
December 26 - January 6:
Winter Holiday Break
January 20: PA Day
February 2: Kindergarten Open House 4-6
February 20: Family Day
March 9-16: March Break
April 6: Good Friday
April 9: Easter Monday
May 18: PA Day
May 21: Victoria Day
June 8: PA Day
June 28: Last Day of School



www.dsbn.org