



ALEXANDRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 2011

WELCOME TO ALEXANDRA SCHOOL!

Shorter days and an unmistakable crispness in the air signal that fall is on its way. We hope that you have enjoyed the summer months and are now settling back into the routines of a new school year. It is always a pleasure to see the children again, so eager to meet the challenges of a new grade level or to begin their elementary school career. We also want to extend a very warm welcome to our Grade 5 French Immersion students who will now be calling Alexandra home.

There are no roles, more important in the life of a child, than that of parent or teacher. Successful nurturing of children requires a commitment of time, energy and expertise. As we begin this school year, let us commit to doing our jobs as well as we possibly can. Meeting the challenges of delivering a first-rate program requires a spirit of cooperation between home and school. We are very fortunate to have parents at Alexandra School who care a great deal about their children's well-being.

We value the communication we have with our parents. If you have a concern, drop in for a chat or feel free to call the school. Please be assured that we will continue to do the best we can - because our children deserve the very best that education has to offer. As teachers, we know that the most rewarding part of our profession is

being able to watch children mature and grow throughout the years. It gives us great satisfaction to be able to provide opportunities which allow children to enjoy learning. The highlight of our job is when a student says "now I understand" and proceeds to show us they can now do something that they couldn't do yesterday.

We're looking forward to a great year!

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION 2011-2012

JK	M. Priddle
SK	B. McNiven
SK	K. Simmonds
Grade 1	D. Walton
Grade ½	J. Day
Grade 2	C. Purdy
Grade 2/3	S. Gabriel
Grade ¾	S. Donders
Grade 4/5	K. Zwolak / A. Robinson
Grade 6	T. Emery
Grade 5 FI	A. Berner
Grade 5 FI	K. Kurarakos
Behaviour	K. Sirett
Prep	M. Hendsbee
Prep/library	M. Verver
LRT	K. Tanner
Youth Counsellor	J. Mestek
FSL	J. Janzen

Educational Assistants:

M. Jones
K. Enns
K. Lowdon
W. Huard
S. Byberg
S. Doherty
CCW – R. Brown

Secretary	H. Liboiron
Caretakers	J. Clarkson J. Kerr L. Broadbridge
Lunch Time Supervisors	L. Broadbridge T. Goodman
Principal	L. Klassen

SCHOOL TIMES

Please note that supervision on our school yard begins at 8:25 am. Students should not arrive at school and be on the yard before then.

8:45 am	Entry
8:45 am	Instructional Block #1
10:25 am	Fitness and Nutrition Break
11:05 am	Instruction Block #2
12:45 am	Fitness and Nutrition Break #2
1:25 pm	Instruction Block #3
3:05 pm	Dismissal

LATE ENTRY PROCEDURE

Students who arrive after the bell has rung, other students have entered and the door has been locked must:

- ❖ Enter through the front door
- ❖ Check in with Mrs. Liboiron at the office
- ❖ Receive a late slip and go to class



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ADULT ENTRY PROCEDURES

- ❖ If visiting or volunteering in the school, parents are asked to go to the office first to speak to our secretary, Mrs. Liboiron, then to sign in and receive a visitor's pass.
- ❖ Parent's accessing the daycare must use the south doors and the buzzer (more information from the daycare)
- ❖ Parents delivering lunches or other items are asked to come to the office. Our secretary will page the students to come to the office to collect the items.
- ❖ Appointments and early dismissals are arranged with the child in advance by informing the office with a note
- ❖ When picking children up for appointments, parents are asked to come to the office first and Mrs. Liboiron will page their child to come down to meet them
- ❖ Parents are asked not to wander the halls without first coming to the office, signing in and receiving a visitor's pass. We don't encourage wandering the halls. It is difficult for the staff to recognize every parent or guardian who comes into the school.
- ❖ Staff and students will be encouraged to greet visitors without nametags and direct them to the office

HEALTH ALERT / ALLERGIES

We have several children in our school who have severe allergies with sensitivities which may threaten their lives. This is referred to as Anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a life threatening allergic reaction. It can be triggered by accidentally inhaling, injecting or absorbing an allergen. Some sources include:

- ❖ Foods/nuts
- ❖ Insect stings
- ❖ Latex
- ❖ Medications

Prevention is the best approach. Therefore, we ask your cooperation is not sending any snacks or lunches containing nuts or nut products with your child.

Please teach and remind your child not to share or trade food at any time, and to wash their hands frequently.

All food must be eaten in the classroom or designated areas, not outside the school or on school buses.

SCHOOL AGENDAS

Again this year we have decided to use Premier Agendas. These serve as a valuable communication tool between students, parents and teacher. In the front of each agenda there is a pouch provided to hold notes and letters of communication home, so please check this pouch from time to time. It is recommended that routines should be established from the start, such as students putting their agenda in

an consistent place where parents can read information coming home from the school.

Students benefit so much when parents and teachers stay in touch! Let's keep the lines of communication open!

We will attempt to do this through:

1. Regular monthly newsletters
2. Class newsletters
3. Student Progress Report Cards
- 4.. Telephone calls, notes and conferences
6. Open House - Sept. 14, 2012

As the 2011-2012 year begins, we would like to remind parents that we welcome their support and assistance with their child's learning and encourage open dialogue between parents and school, so that each student meets with success!

EARLY RELEASE DAY

Please take note that Friday, September 23rd, 2011 is an Early Release Day. The purpose of this afternoon is for staff to focus on curriculum implementation and professional development. School will dismiss at 11:55 am on that day. **There will not be an afternoon JK class.**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the fall, we will be reviewing our safety rules and practicing our fire and lockdown drills. Each classroom teacher will spend time talking to their students about the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency situation.



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SCHOOL COUNCIL INVITATION

What is the role of the school council?

School councils enhance students' learning through the co-operative efforts of parents, students, staff members and others in the community. Our School Council fulfills an important role at Alexandra and we invite all parents to participate. We sincerely appreciate the input and support we receive and look forward to working with the School Council again this year. Last year was highly successful, with our council members undertaking a number of projects which resulted in significant enhancements to our school programs and instructional learning environments. The school council also paid for all the bussing for the class trips.

If you would like to find out more about our school council, please attend our first meeting on Tues. Sept 27th at 6:30 p.m. This will be the final meeting of the 2010-2011 council. The first meeting of the 2011-2012 council will be held on Tues. Oct. 25th at 6:30. Meetings are held in the staff room.

MEET THE TEACHER OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, September 14th from 5:30-7:00 pm will be an opportunity for students to introduce parents to their teachers. Teachers will be available in their classrooms to meet with you.

This is an important time for you to link with the school and make that all important connection between teacher and parent. We invite you

to visit the classrooms, library, and computer lab.

MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

Alexandra will again be providing the opportunity to renew your magazine subscriptions this fall. Our campaign begins with our kick off assembly on Friday, September 30th. Please wait until then to renew and/or purchase new subscriptions.

LICE

Alexandra Staff and School Council have reviewed the lice procedures for our students and developed the following policy.

While lice is no better or worse at Alexandra it is easily spread and difficult to eliminate. We appreciate the support of parents dealing with lice.

LICE PROCEDURES

(as approved by School Council)
When you discover your child has head lice, please:

- notify the school immediately
- treat your child with a head lice product
- use a lice comb to remove eggs/nits from hair
- pull/comb all eggs/nits from each hair shaft that were not removed with the lice comb
- vacuum carpets, furniture and car seats
- wash clothes, hats, towels, bedding in hot water and dry in a dryer for 20 minutes (bleach is helpful)
- stuffed animals should be washed or stored outside

the house for one week (5 hours in a freezer will also work)

- your child may return to school after treatment we will check hair for lice or nits before the student returns to class

If LICE is discovered while at school, we will make every effort to contact parents or the emergency contact to take the child home for treatment. When we are aware of lice, all students in the affected class will receive a letter requesting parents check their child's head and follow the above steps if lice/nits are found. If you aren't sure if it is lice, bring your student to the office and we will check for you.

BICYCLES

With the start of school brining kids out on bikes, please be aware of the Alexandra policy for bicycles. The Niagara Regional Police recommend that only students in grades 4-6 be allowed to ride their bicycles to school.

Students must wear a bicycle helmet, *walk* their bicycle on and off school property and lock it securely in the school bicycle racks. All personal property is the responsibility of the student. All students should understand and obey the rules of the road and practice safe cycling behavior. Students must obey or risk the loss of this privilege.



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MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Staff members are not permitted to administer medication to students without a written request by parents and a physician's authorization indicating the name, dosage, frequency, time and method of administration of the drug. Only medications in their original labelled containers are acceptable. This practice is in accordance with District School Board of Niagara policy. Forms are available at the office. For safety reasons, please do not send any medication to school in the hands of your child.

CUSTODY ISSUES

If there are any issues concerning the custody of your child(ren), please contact the school every year to advise us of the circumstances and to provide us with the appropriate documentation.

DRESS CODE

With the warm weather we usually still have in September, 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

BREAKFAST CLUB

All students are welcome to come to Alexandra School each morning for the breakfast program. There is information about this program in your child's agenda. If you would like your child to participate, please fill out the form that will be sent home later this month. Students will come in through the south doors and down to the nutrition room between 8am and 8:30am.

PICTURE DAY

Students will be photographed on Thursday, September 15th. Please mark this day on your calendars.

LUNCH BREAK

Students are welcome to stay for lunch at school, however, it is essential that lunch rules are followed:

- ❖ Eat in your assigned seat, no changing seats
- ❖ Students must stay seated during the entire nutrition break, no walking around is allowed
- ❖ Eat only what you have packed in your lunch, do not share because of students who have allergies
- ❖ No loud talking
- ❖ Clean up after yourself, put all your garbage and recyclables into the correct

containers and make sure your desk is clean

We ask that all students fill out the Lunch Application Form and return it to school. On the application form, students are given two options during the lunch break. They can either eat at school or at home. Crossing guards will be on duty during the second break from 12:45 pm to 1:25 pm. If your child has ordered milk, they will receive it during the lunch break. Thank you for your assistance in this area

MILK PROGRAM

Alexandra will again be offering milk that students can purchase. In the past, students have been able to buy a milk card that is redeemable for 20 milks. More information about this program will be sent home shortly. This program will begin towards the end of September.

CODE OF CONDUCT

There is a copy of the Alexandra Code of Conduct posted on our website and you will also find it in your child's agenda (gr. 1-6)

WEBSITE

A copy of our newsletter and calendar will be posted on our school website monthly at <http://alexandra.dsbni.org/> You can also find copies of permission forms on the website as well.



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