



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Farley Mowat Public School

75 Waterbridge Drive
Nepean, Ontario
K2G 6T3

Telephone: 613- 825-3006 Fax: 613- 825-6455



September 7, 2018

Principal and Vice Principal Message

September is a favorite time of year for teachers with all the promise of a fresh start. It's always fun to set up our classrooms, lay out brand new school supplies, and enjoy optimistic, energetic feelings after having enjoyed a good rest over the summer. We were so happy to see our students looking fresh, eager and excited to be back with their friends.

Special thank you to our teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants, custodians, and office staff, have worked very hard over the summer in preparation for your child's arrival to school. Staff is looking forward to working with parents and the school community to challenge our youth in their learning.

Presently our enrolment is at 569 students in the English and Early French Immersion programs. We have 5 JK/SK classes, 10 primary classes and 10 junior classes.

Our first welcome back assembly was held on Wednesday, September 5th, Mrs. O'Doherty spoke to the students about bullying, walking to and from school, bus safety, yard expectations and bicycle safety.

The school newsletter is a key means of communicating between home and school. It will be sent electronically to parent /guardian via School Messenger. Newsletters will also be posted to the school website. The Principal will provide up to date information on our school website to keep parents informed of important events. Commonly used forms, such as medical forms, will be available on line for parents/guardians.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 825-3006.

Michael Malek
Principal

Jennifer O' Doherty
Vice Principal



Our Staff this Year

Our Kindergarten Team:

K. Mailing (French), S. Derry (English), M. Magro (ECE), J. Froud (ECE) J. Chevalier (French) , V. Dunn (English), C. Ward (ECE) , G. French (French), J. Mersereau (English) , M. Mueca (ECE), A. Bechamp (ECE).

Our Primary Team: R. Taggart (EFI), C Raudoy (EFI), E. MacKenzie (EFI), K. Reade (ETFI), M. Zert (EFI), W. Jonsson (ETFI), T. Nascimento (EFI), A. Ray-Latimer, (ETFI) A. Wiegelmann (EFI) E. Aro, (English) A. Cathcart (English) and A. Blanchard (English).

Our Junior Team: W. Lee-Shanok (EFI), M. Harty (ETFI), N. Auget-Paquet (EFI), C. Walshe (ETFI), B. Sabourine-Lajoie (EFI), A. Champion (EFI), M. Cappell (ETFI), N. Hobson (English), D. Wallace (English) B. Blair (English) and A. Cole (English).

Our Administrative, English to French Immersion and Support Team: K. Cuttress (LST), D. Avery (LRT) , V. Popplewell (LRT), V. Dunn (ESL), B. Mickle (Core French), J. Chevalier (Core French) , M. Munro (EA), A. Becchina (EA), M. McEvoy (Office Administrator), K. Tilbrook (Office Assistant) R. Wickens (Chief Custodian), R. Wafi (part-time Librarian), Mrs. O'Doherty (Vice-Principal/Kindergarten Coverage) and M. Malek (Principal).

Character Trait for the Month of September is Respect



Drawstring Safety

Drawstrings on jackets, sweatshirts and other clothing items pose a danger to children. They can become snagged on school bus handrails or doors and on playground equipment. Incidents of snagged drawstrings or toggles have resulted in injuries and even deaths. We urge you to inspect all of your children's clothing and eliminate these hazards wherever possible. The simplest solution is to remove all drawstrings from clothing.

Student Accident Insurance

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

Student accident insurance is available for purchase, on a voluntary basis, through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Parents may apply online at www.insuremykids.com, forms may be downloaded at www.binks.ca or hard copies may be picked up from the school office.

The OCDSB encourages all parents/guardians to consider purchasing this insurance. If your child is involved in school related sports activities or is participating in any field trips out of the province you may wish to seriously consider the coverage options, which range from \$13.00/year to \$33.00/year. This coverage is for the entire calendar year and also applies outside of school hours. If you have any questions, please call Binks Insurance Brokers directly at 613-226-1350.

Attendance

If your child will be late or absent from school please call the school before 8:15 a.m. to report the absence. If the office is closed at the time of your call simply leave the message on the attendance line. Our automated attendant will guide you. Calls can be made on a 24 hour basis. Although a note to the teacher is thoughtful the message doesn't always reach the office. In the case of an extended absence, please inform us of your child's planned return date. This will minimize concerns at the school and eliminate repeated phone calls to verify the absence of a student.

Arrive On Time

All students are encouraged to arrive at school 15 minutes before the entry bell so they can have an opportunity to be physically active, get fresh air and to socialize with their friends before the instructional day starts at 8:30 am. It is important for all students to be at school at 8:30 am so routines can be established and learning is not disrupted. The first few minutes of class are important organizational times. Students who arrive late miss the opportunity to become organized for the day and to hear important announcements. Students who are late are required to report in the office, so that the attendance record can be corrected, and they will be issued a late slip to present to the classroom teacher.

End of the Day Dismissal

For safety reasons, if you have unexpected changes to your child's regular dismissal arrangements, kindly arrive or contact the office **prior to 2:45 p.m.** This enables us to have the time to contact your child's class and share the information with the teacher. Students are dismissed promptly at 3:00 pm and either walk home, attend Waterbridge After school Program or take a bus. Students are not allowed to stay on school property after 3:00 pm unsupervised.

Religious Holidays

If your child is going to be absent due to a religious holiday, please make sure that you call the absence into the office and specify the reason. Your child will not be marked absent but specified as a "G" day which is not shown on their report card.

Healthy Choices and Allergies

As part of a broader effort to develop healthier learning environments and choices, encourage parents not to bring in food for sharing for their child's birthday or other celebrations. Rather, parents might choose to send in a book with the child's name in it for the class library, stickers, pencils or other school items (all optional for each family). It is important to know that teachers and students do celebrate each child's birthday in many different ways.

It is also imperative that we ensure the safety of all our students. Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. Each school is required to follow procedures to ensure student safety; part of these procedures include staff training, proper identification and medical information for all affected students, emergency protocols and communicating allergy needs with

all families. We would like to make our school community aware that there are several students in our school with a severe life-threatening food allergy to peanuts and nuts (anaphylaxis). Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you can help us ensure a safe learning environment for all students by NOT sending any foods to school that may contain peanuts or nut products. Information regarding specific allergies within your child's class will be sent home at the start of the school year. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Medication

School staff is not permitted to administer prescription medication to any students without authorization from the parent and physician. If it is necessary for your child to receive medication at school, an Ottawa-Carleton District School Board form must be completed by your doctor and brought to the school office. Forms must be signed by the physician who prescribes the medicine. Please do not send a note asking staff to administer any medicine on a casual basis; legally we are not permitted to do so. New oral medication forms are required each year. If your child must receive medication from staff regularly, please get a new form from the office. Medical forms are available on our school website and should be downloaded and take to your doctor's office if you anticipate a prescription is needed. Should medication or dosage change, a new form must be completed. Forms are available on the school's website.

Fifth's Disease

If you have confirmed that your child has Fifth's Disease, please let the office know so that we may immediately inform any expectant mothers who, along with people suffering from immune disorders, may be at risk.

Do We Have Your Number?

We will be sending home a number of forms for you to read, sign and return. Please don't forget to let the office know IMMEDIATELY should your work, cell or home numbers change throughout the school year. It's also very important to let us know if your sitter changes, or if you move. Should an emergency occur at school, we must be able to contact you (or the noted emergency contact person).

Personal Belongings

Neither the school nor the OCDSB is responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items brought to school. Parents are asked to discourage their children from bringing expensive items to school. Please label all of your child's belongings so they can be easily identified and claimed by your child as often several children may be wearing the same outer coat/snow pants/boots etc.

Yard Supervision

Yard supervision begins at 8:15 a.m. Students are not permitted to eat outside as nutrition breaks are provided in each classroom. This is to reduce the risk of choking, minimize the possibility that our anaphylactic students will be exposed to a substance that is toxic to them as well as reducing the amount of garbage on the yard.

Bicycles

When weather is appropriate, children in Grades 1 to 6 may ride bicycles to school. It is mandatory that protective helmets are worn by children under 18 years of age. Bicycles are to be parked and locked in the allocated areas. The school is not responsible for theft or damage to bicycles. For safety reasons, children are to walk their bicycles when they are on school property.

Lunches

To minimize the garbage produced at Farley Mowat, as part of our waste management program, we would appreciate all students to pack garbage less lunches. If disposable packages are included in the lunch, we will encourage your child to dispose of or recycle it at home. We appreciate your support in this matter.

No Dogs On School Property

For health and safety reasons, dogs are not allowed on the school property. Parents are requested to refrain from bringing dogs to school when dropping off or picking up their children. Signs are posted at all entry points as a reminder. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



Discussions with the Principal or Vice-Principal

Principals and Vice-principals advocate for each child in the school and always have time to meet with students or parents. If you have a concern within the classroom setting, please ensure that you have discussed this with the teacher before bringing the matter to the Principal or Vice-Principal so that you are aware of the child's and the teacher's perspective. In a large school, regrettably walk-in meetings may not be the most effective manner to have a good conversation on a matter. The Vice-Principal is only available for half of the day as she has teaching responsibilities for the other half of the day. Your meeting with one of the Administration team, may be more effective if you phone ahead of time so that they can arrange their schedules to give you the time and attention you deserve.

Farley Mowat School Council

Our school council is very active and supports the school through fundraising, parent workshops, hot lunch programs and volunteering. The council meets every third Wednesday of the month. This year's first meeting and elections will take place on **Wednesday, September 19^h, 2018** at 6:45pm in the library. The parent council provides great opportunities to get involved in school life. There are many positions on the council open for new members this year. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Elected School Council Positions

- Elected School Council Members must attend monthly meetings to vote on various School Council initiatives. The meetings take place in the School library on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the evening.
- **Chair & Vice Chair** – heads of School Council; set agenda and run meetings; primary contact for School Council and liaison between the parents and school administration
- **Treasurer** – prepare financial reports and responsible for financial matters
- **Secretary** – take minutes at Monthly meetings and send out minutes of meetings; maintains e-mail database
- **Community Representative** – member of the general community who is not a parent or staff member of the OCDSB
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- **Fundraising Co-ordinator** – organize and manage movie nights and family fun nights
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- **Lunch Co-ordinator** – organize the weekly pizza program (currently Wednesdays during the day)
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- **Volunteer Co-ordinator** – organizes volunteers for various school council events and maintains a volunteer database
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- **Communications Liaison** – prepares monthly newsletters and posts relevant material on the school council website
- **OCASC Representative** – attends monthly OCASC meetings and reports back to School
- **Council Members At Large** (3 positions) – attend monthly meetings and supports School Council initiatives
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- For a more detailed list of tasks and responsibilities, please consult the School Council Constitution.

Looking Ahead

- **September 10th-14th** : FYI-Several forms from the office will be going home:
STUDENT VERIFICATION SHEET
APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FORM
MEDIA/WEBSITE PERMISSION FORM
GENERAL PERMISSION FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES AT CRESTHAVEN PARK

When you receive them, we ask that you review them, complete them and return them to your child's teacher ASAP by **September 17th**. This ensures that we have up to date and accurate records for your child.

- **September 20th** : Mark your calendars- "Meet the Teacher Evening" 4:00-6:00 pm. We hope you'll come out and join in the fun and have a chance to greet each other as we begin our new school year.
- **September 28th Orange T Shirt Day:** People from all walks of life will be wearing orange shirts to remember the experiences of former students of Indian Residential Schools and to commit to ongoing reconciliation.
- **September 27th Terry Fox Walk/Run @ 11:15 am Rain date: September 28th**
- **October 11th** : School Photo Day. Picture re-take day **November 8th**.