From the Desk of Mr. Peck

We have over two weeks under our belts and good learning has been taking place in our classrooms. We’ve had to iron out a few issues, and I have been thankful for parental support in these situations. Overall, we’re off to a great start. I look forward to meeting parents next Thursday and hope that everyone is able to make it.

We have made some significant changes to a few programs and procedures this year. These are described or explained in this newsletter. Please read carefully.

Meet the Teacher Night

Please help us reduce congestion and long line ups by visiting the school according to the following schedule, whenever possible. If your last name starts with a letter between:

A to H drop in from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm;

I to P drop in from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm;

Q to Z drop in from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Thanks for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you. If you have pre-ordered a sundae, these will be available in the front foyer. The evening is over at 7:30 pm.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM 2012-2013

Mandarin ~ German ~ Greek ~ Japanese ~ Korean ~ Russian ~ Spanish ~ Vietnamese

Class Location: Barrie Learning Centre at Bayfield Mall, 320 Bayfield Street, Barrie (Bayfield Street & Hwy 400);
When: Saturday mornings
Time: 9:00am to 11:30am
Students: All students in Grade 1 to Grade 8
Cost: Free

Register on-line in 2012/2013 at www.thelearningcentres.com select “Elementary Student” then “International Languages” scroll down to “On-line registration form”. Please note: parents who have had students registered in the international language program in the past need to express their continued interest in the program by re-enrolling their children each year.
Call 705-725-8360 extension 45160 or 45151 with questions.
Triple P Parenting

These seminars are for parents with 2 - 6 year old children. This 3 session series provides valuable information on positive parenting skills. Each session builds upon the next so it is recommended that participants attend all three. They are: Triple P: The Power of Positive Parenting: Monday, November 5, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Join us to learn how to help your child develop the skills they need to do their best at school, make friends, feel good about themselves and handle problems. Triple P: Raising Confident, Competent Children: Monday, November 12, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Create a foundation of success for school and life. Learn and explore how to help your child show respect, learn cooperation, build self-esteem, be successful in school, relate positively to others and solve problems. Triple P: Raising Resilient Children: Monday, November 19, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Children need to learn to cope with everyday feelings, strong emotions and stressful situations and events. Examine 6 building blocks to help your child manage emotions in a healthy way. Limited child care available for children ages 0 - 6. Registration for the series begins October 3 at 9:00 a.m. Ends October 26th. Please call the Centre at 905 775 3039, ext. 229 to register.

The Current Labour Situation in Ontario

The provincial government has passed Bill 115, Putting Students First Act. This legislation requires school boards and their unions to negotiate collective agreements by December 31, 2012. The agreements must be consistent with the terms prescribed in the Act. Because the Act freezes compensation to all education sector workers, reduces the number of sick days and brings an end to a retirement gratuity based on unused sick leave, the various unions are choosing to show their displeasure with the Ontario government. There should be no disruption to the learning in the classrooms. The Simcoe County District School Board continues to work towards reaching collective agreements with all employee groups and our school continues to promote a learning environment focused on student achievement. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Technology and Privacy

Many of our teachers like to enhance learning with technology and regular use of the internet. This means photographs of our students may appear on the web. A student may appear as the subject of a photo/video or in the background of a photo/video. These may at times be accompanied by first names. Please notify the school office with a short note if you DO NOT want your child’s photo to appear on the internet.

Supervision

REMEMBER, Outdoor supervision of students begins at 8:40 AM. It’s best if all students have arrived at school by 8:50 AM. This ensures they can be ready to enter at 8:55 and not be marked late. It also ensures they don’t miss the beginning of the first lesson of the day. Students MUST NOT arrive before 8:40 am unless parents remain with them to supervise. Thanks.
What to do when visiting the School

In order to keep your children safe, it is mandatory that you enter the school through the main front doors and check in at the office. You will be asked to sign the visitors' book and will be given a visitors sticker. This is school and School Board protocol and applies to ALL visitors, even those who visit us daily. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Council

School Council Meetings are set for the following dates. All parents are welcome to attend. We will meet in our school library at 7:00 pm for about 90 minutes on of the following Wednesdays:

October 3, November 7, January 16, February 6, April 3, and May 1.

Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be open for sales in our library on Meet the Teacher Night. Students will also be able to purchase books and items from Wednesday, September 26 to Monday, October 1 \textsuperscript{st} during class time. Sales help raise money for our school library and also promote literacy among our students.

Changes to Recess

We have more students at school this year, and to improve the recess experience for each of them, we have made the following changes. Each break is still 40 minutes in length. For the first 20 minutes our primary students go outside while our grade 6, 7 and 8 students eat inside. For the last 20 minutes, this is reversed. This seems to be working quite well and gives the students more space to play and interact together outside. Our first 40 minute break begins at 10:35 AM and our second break begins at 12:55 PM. The second break is the designated “lunch hour” when students who go home for lunch may do so.

Milk Program

We had some school based issues with the Daily Milk Program last year. For the foreseeable future, we will not be offering milk for purchase at school.

Pizza Sales and Toonie Tuesdays

We will be offering pizza for delivery every Wednesday to any students who order on the Tuesday the week before. The cost will be $2 exact change per slice. The pizza meets the healthy food guidelines and will come with cheese and pepperoni. There will be no order forms. Toonies will be collected every Tuesday for delivery on the following Wednesday. Our first order day will be Tuesday, September 25\textsuperscript{th}. This order will be delivered on Wednesday, October 3. We are trying to make the process simpler, reduce the time taken from instruction, but still give students a chance to buy pizza on a weekly basis.
Grade 5 and 6 Trip to St. Donat Quebec

Parents of students in grade 5 and 6: Please return the Letter of Interest form to the school as soon as possible. Your response will allow us to determine if our trip to Quebec is going forward. Many of you received this letter at the information night. Others will have received it from their teacher.

Volunteers Needed

We value the contributions of parents and community members who offer their time to help make our school a better place. We need volunteers to:

- read with students
- help with food days (delivery and counting money)
- Safe Arrival Program
- Library assistance
- various other jobs as needed

If you feel you would like to help in any of these areas, please contact the school. A current Criminal Background Check is required. If you have any other suggestions for how you might like to contribute to school life in a voluntary way, please contact the principal or vice-principal. Thanks.

Important Upcoming Dates

September 27  Meet the Teacher Night
September 28  PA Day; no classes for students
October 3      School Council Meeting at 7:00 pm in our library
October 8      Thanksgiving; no classes for students
October 19     Grade 4 to Scanlon Creek
October 23     Grade 7 to Scanlon Creek