This is a special year. It’s special because our school has changed, and change is a good thing, at least in this case. We have full day kindergarten – no more A and B days to remember. Also, we now have two streams: Our English Kindergarten to Grade 8 and our Extended French Grade 5 to Grade 8. All our rooms are full of students eager to learn and teachers eager to teach. If we were Air Canada or West Jet, we’d be full – every seat sold and ready to take off at full capacity. Not only that, we have 16 new staff members working here. It’s going to be a special year and an exciting one too.

From the Desk of Mrs. Golding

As we return to school each fall, both staff and students look with excitement at all of the possibility that lies ahead. This year, our school-wide theme is, “Unless someone like you...”. This idea came from the Dr. Seuss book The Lorax and I like to think of it as describing the power that we all have to make a positive difference in the world around us. This is a new year, full of possibilities to and I would like to wish all of our W.H. Day families a warm welcome back as we explore those possibilities together.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING REORGANIZATION

Your children have come home with exciting news about who their teacher is, what class they’re in and their room location. Please be advised that for some students this may change. Classes are carefully organized in June based on school board enrolment projections – informed, and usually very accurate best guesses. However, as you can imagine, things change over the summer - new students register, and some expected ones do not show up. Reorganization is difficult for everyone but, there is a high likelihood that it will occur. Reorganization decisions are based on collective agreements, school board directives, Ministry of Education directives, gender balance in classrooms and various other considerations. Although difficult at the time, after a few weeks, everyone sees that it is “the better way”. Your understanding and support will be appreciated.

Do not hesitate to call if you have any concerns or questions.

Our Present Organization

Full Day Kindergarten Team
K. Cox, H. Handy, T. Hicks, J. Hoogstad, K. Nagy, G. Nobili, R. Street, J. Whiteside, L. Maurino

Special Education Team
S. Budge, C. Foley, B. Reid, A. Schneider, K. Walton, L. Moore, Mrs. Kemp, Mrs. Mumford, Ms. Jacobs, Mrs. Whiteway, Mrs. Maggetti
The English Program

Grade 1 – Mrs. Gayapersad, Mrs. Collis, Mrs. Pyne
Grade 2 – Ms. Cuthbertson, Mrs. Grantham, Mrs. Pyne
Grade 3 – Mrs. Strype, Mr. Wilcox
Grade 4 – Ms. Vesa, Ms. Sandham
Grade 5 – Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Linton
Grade 6 – Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Jackson
Grade 7 – Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Carron, Mrs. Kemp
Grade 8 – Mr. Carron, Mrs. MacNaice, Mrs. Kemp

Librarian and Other Teaching Staff

Ms. Gillard, Ms. Burlanyette, Ms. Derbecker, Ms. Latour, Mr. Stuckey

Office Staff and Custodians

Mrs. Jamieson, Mrs. Szabady, Mrs. Meeuwse, R. Lamore, M. Preston, J. Penwarden

Code of Conduct

Our school staff aims to model excellent character for our students and community. In turn, we expect excellent behavior from our students. Take some time to read the Code of Conduct in the front of your child’s agenda. Students who break the code will be disciplined appropriately and in a progressive manner when suitable. Your support when discipline is needed is both appreciated and required if your child is to learn from his or her mistakes.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2012-2013

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country field trips) are not covered by the Board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen.

Due to recent injuries in Ontario during school extra-curricular activities and field trips, and the resulting legal claims, a risk exposure to school boards has been highlighted. It is essential that all those participating in out of regular school extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury.

The Simcoe County District School Board has selected Reliable Life Insurance Company as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year. The coverage is for 24 hours a day. Reliable Life offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. You will have received this information last week in first week handout package.

Participation in extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs) or out-of-province/out-of-country field trips requires the purchase of this insurance, or a signed acknowledgement advising that the family has other coverage. There is no opportunity beginning this
school year to opt out of either purchasing this coverage or acknowledging that the participant has another means of providing this coverage.

Update about the French Program Parent Survey

We would like to thank the 1600 parents and guardians of JK and Grade 2 students who took the time last June to give us their opinions about the 4 options that the Simcoe County District School Board is considering to enhance its French as a Second Language Programs starting in September 2013. We know that there are likely some families who either did not have time to complete the survey in June or who are new to Simcoe County. If you did not get a chance to complete the survey in June, please go to our website (www.scdsb.on.ca) and look for the link to the French survey on the home page. If you already filled it out, THANK YOU! There is no need to do it again.

★ Important: Now that we are starting a new school year, this survey is for parents and guardians of children who are starting SK and Grade 3. Parents who have not already completed this survey are asked to complete it by September 16.

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.

Our Parking Lot

Our parking lot and kiss and ride area is a very busy place; this means it can also be dangerous too. Please read and the follow the parking/drop off information in this newsletter. Walk to school if at all possible, and if you’re driving through the kiss and ride area, please obey the sandwich board signs on the island. Thank you.

Important Upcoming Dates

September 10 School Council Meets in the Library at 7:00 pm (new members welcome)

September 20 Picture Day
September 21 Picture Day

September 27 Meet the Teacher Night (details to follow; note change of date)

September 28 PA Day