



## Welcome Back!

Our week has been busy welcoming over 550 students into our school. There have been some staffing changes since June. We welcome back Ms. Mercone as well as Ms. Lowe to our grade 4 team.



This year all students are beginning a unit learning about themselves. We have called this "The Story of Me". All grades are working on the same overall expectations of the curriculum and will showcase the products of their learning at our Curriculum Night on October 4th. As parents you may expect questions from your child about your family's history, how and why your family lives in Canada, explanations of celebrations and family traditions as students learn more about themselves

## Traffic Safety



We have also worked with the Markham Traffic Department in updating the signage at the front of the school to indicate **NO STOPPING** along the front of the school. Bylaw and Police will help us enforce this new signage and make crossing Russel Jarvis more safe.

You may have noticed that the City no longer has a crossing guard posted at the corner of Russel Jarvis and Legacy. This position is open and the city would like to hire someone who is available and willing. If you are interested please contact our office for information.

## School Council

Education is a partnership involving parents, students, teachers, principals, community and school boards.

School councils provide advice on school matters and help to strengthen the important relationship between schools, parents/guardians and their communities.

All members of the school community are welcome to attend council meetings. Parents/guardians and community members are key to a successful school council. Getting involved gives you the opportunity to be part of a team working to ensure a high quality of education. School councils are supported in their work through various resources available online or through the school administrator.

This is just one way families can get involved to support students and schools. Learn about other things you can do to engage with your child's learning at home and at school.

Our School Council Election will be held on **September 18th**. A nomination form (due September 14th) can be found in the envelope sent home with our students today.

## Recess Change

We have modified our recess time to a full outdoor 30 minute structure. Previously, students had 15 minutes for a snack break and 15 minutes of outdoor play. This change allows for students to have more outdoor play time. Research shows that physical activity and fresh air stimulates the brain and body and prepares students for learning. When children are outside they move more, sit less, and play/learn longer. (Position Statement on Outdoor Active Play, 2015) Morning snack times will be integrated either before or after morning recess in classes.

<http://www.participaction.com/report-card-2015/report-card/>  
<http://stage.participaction.com/sites/default/files/downloads/Participaction-PositionStatement-ActiveOutdoorPlay.pdf>

## Kiss 'N Ride

The best ways to get to school are by walking or by bus. However, if you must drive your child to school please use our Kiss 'N Ride for drop off in the morning. Parents **MUST** stay in their car, students **MUST** have their backpacks on their laps ready to go and exit the car from the right hand side. We have staff and student helpers to take kindergarten students to the kindergarten area!! *Parents, take advantage of this fantastic service!*



## Notification of Commercial Nature

From time to time we hope to send offers to your email about Lunch Programs, Book Sales at the school, opportunities in the community of commercial nature. In order to do this we need parents to enter your email on our webpage. These emails will **NEVER** be shared and will only get commercial emails that have been approved by the school. Parents/Guardians: Enter your e-mail address to **subscribe** to electronic communications of a commercial nature on our website: [HERE](#).

## Message from Trustee Nathan

As we begin the 2017-2018 school year, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new and returning students and families. This is an exciting time of year and I hope you are starting this new school year as trustees are - with optimism and a commitment to working together to continue advancing student achievement and well-being.

An important part of that commitment is working together with staff members, families and communities to ensure our schools provide an environment that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. This takes on increasing importance given recent local and global events. We take pride in the diversity of our communities and will continue striving to uphold the values of equity and inclusivity in our system.

Trustees have had a busy summer, welcoming our [new Human Rights Commissioner](#) and beginning the [process for selecting a new Director of Education](#) as we continue to move forward implementing the [Minister's Directions](#).

An important part of the director selection process includes collecting input from students, staff, families and community members - input that will be used to shape the job description, interview questions and more. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts through the [survey](#) available in September. We will continue to keep you updated as this work progresses.

Our schools are stronger when we work in collaboration with families and communities. Partnerships with parents and families are essential to achieving the goals we have for our students, and I hope that you will find opportunities to get engaged with the school and your child's learning this year.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.

*Juanita Nathan*