

### *Greetings!*

A warm welcome back to all of you. I hope you enjoyed the summer, hot days and sunshine. I look forward to hearing stories about your summer vacations. Welcome to the families new to Oakwood School. I hope you will be able to attend our Meet the Staff Open House on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

During the summer improvements have been made to the safety and security of Oakwood School. All doors to the building will be locked during the school day. The main entry door, at the back of the school, closest to the office, now has a buzzer outside the door. When you approach the door, press the buzzer and identify yourself. A video and audio system linked to the office will enable us to unlock the door electronically to allow entry to the building. Many District School Board of Niagara schools already have a similar system to ensure the safety of students and staff during the school day. Students will be instructed to allow staff only to open the door (even if they recognize the person outside). There may be times when you will need to wait a few minutes longer for the door to be opened (if staff are not within arm's reach of the system, i.e. on the phone or in the restroom). We ask for your patience as we work to improve the safety of Oakwood School for our students and staff.

Our teaching and support staff have been working hard to prepare the classrooms, lessons and materials for the students= return. Mr. Thompson and our cleaning staff have prepared the building inside and out for our students= arrival. Mrs. Fallon has been completing all the administrative tasks in anticipation of the new school year. I thank all the Oakwood Staff for their efforts to get us ready for a great opening to the 2011 B 2012 school year!

*Mrs. Linda Oakes, Principal*

## **ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN**

Each year a Student Accident Insurance Plan is made available for all students on a voluntary basis. The plan provides protection for **DENTAL DAMAGE DUE TO ACCIDENTS, FRACTURE BENEFITS AND OTHER IMPORTANT COVERAGES**, which are **NOT** covered under the Provincial Health Plan. Some parents may have Dental Plan coverage through their work but many of these plans are limited in one way or another, while this accident coverage is not. You should compare to make sure you have the coverage you need or desire.

**UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT THE BOARD IS NOT PERMITTED TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACCIDENTS TO PUPILS, THEREFORE**, the Board recommends consideration of this plan to any parent who wishes to obtain this kind of insurance. Although the policy has all the advantages of a group plan, it is essentially a direct contract between the parent and the insurance company.

Details of these plans are described on the enclosed application form. If you require further information, you may contact **Reliable Life at Box 2046, Hamilton, L8N 9Z9** or call toll free at **1-800-465-0661**. If you wish to subscribe to this insurance, please complete the form and mail it *directly* to Reliable Life Insurance Company in the enclosed stamped envelope immediately, but preferably before **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.**

You may also enroll online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) (for all plans except the \$3.50 basic plan). If the enrolment form for the Student Accident Insurance Plan has not been received or it has been misplaced, please contact your school office.



### **For Safety's Sake**

Please call the school before 8:30 a.m. (or 12:30 for afternoon students) if your child is going to be absent. This will reduce the number of call backs Mrs. Fallon has to make. She tracks the attendance of all our students twice daily. If we don't hear from you, and your child is not in school, we will call.

If your child is in danger of suffering a severe anaphylactic reaction to bee stings, nuts or other allergies, please inform the office immediately so that an emergency plan can be put in place to ensure that your child's medical needs are met immediately.

Please inform the school if there are special custody orders for your child.

Please do not send medication to school with your child or do not place it in your child's backpack. All medication, including over-the-counter drugs, must be stored at the office with your written instructions for administration. Please contact Mrs. Oakes for further information.

### **VISITOR SIGN IN & SCHOOL SECURITY**

Should you have to pick up a student early, or drop something off for your child, during school hours, we ask that you enter through the back door, using our new security system, and then check in at the office. Items which you are dropping off may be left with the office and we will call down your child at the next class break. Please write a note in the student agenda for the teacher if you need to pick up your child early. We will make every effort to have your child at the doors waiting for you. All visitors who wish to enter the school will need to sign in at the office and wear a visitor's tag. Wearing the visitor's tag signifies to staff and students that you have stopped by the office before walking through the school.



At regular entry times, we ask that your child wait outside their assigned entry door and refrain from entering the building before the bell rings. At dismissal, if you are picking up your child, we ask that you wait outside your child's assigned exit door. Students who walk home with a younger sibling are encouraged to meet them outside their dismissal

door.

### **NUT ALLERGIES**

We are asking students to bring nut free snacks and foods only to school. We are trying to make the school a "Nut-Free Zone" for several reasons. Peanut and nut allergies are usually severe and can be fatal. Even tiny amounts of nut particles or residue can cause someone with a nut allergy to have a strong reaction. Without treatment, this person could die within minutes. Oakwood School can only be a "nut free" school with your commitment and co-operation. Please read labels to see if peanut or nut products are present. Try to avoid products that do not carry a list of ingredients. Thank you for your help.

### **EARLY RELEASE DAY**

Friday, September 23rd is our first early release day. Students who walk to and from school will be dismissed at 12:00 noon (after period 3).

K Students in grades one through eight, who are bussed will be dismissed when their bus arrives – approximately 12:30 p.m.

K Morning JK and SK students may ride their scheduled buses to school on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, but parents will be required to pick up their child at the end of the morning class. For the purpose of kindergarten safety, on the early release day, kindergarten students may not ride home on the grade one to eight bus routes. If a parent cannot commit to picking up their kindergarten child at 11:15 a.m., they should not send their child to school on the early release day, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

K There are **NO AFTERNOON KINDERGARTEN** classes that day.

### **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Staff and class assignments are made based on the enrolment information we have at the end of June. In the event that enrolment numbers change significantly by September, the District School Board of Niagara adjusts the staff assigned to the school. If it is necessary to reorganize class assignments due to any such changes the changed class placements will take place on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Parents and students will be contacted directly if any changes are necessary.

### **Things to Know**

1. If you have a child in Grade 3 or Grade 6, please try not to book any holidays or doctor=s appointments from May 23 through June 6, 2012. EQAO, the provincial assessment, will take place during this time span (specific dates for Oakwood School will follow). EQAO testing is mandatory for all Grade 3 and 6 students in the Province of Ontario
1. This year, our school photographer will be *Lifetouch*. **Our school photo day will be on September 26, 2011, retakes on November 4, 2011 and grad photos on February 8, 2012.**
3. Oakwood student agendas will be distributed the first week of school to all students in Grades 1 through 8. Please take the time to read through the organizer with your child to establish a clear understanding of the school=s policies and procedures. There is no cost for the organizer, thanks to the generosity of our School Council who raised the funds for their purchase. You are encouraged to use the organizer as a tool for communicating with your child=s teacher. As well, students will use the organizer to record homework assignments, dates for upcoming quizzes and tests and special events.

### **Terry Fox Walk**

Oakwood School will host their Terry Fox Walk on September 28, 2011 at 2:25 p.m. For the week leading up to our run we will be accepting pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies and toonies. Please send in your loose change - every little bit helps. Cancer is a disease that has effected so many families in our community. Our participation in the Terry Fox run will raise funds to continue the research needed to find a cure for cancer. Parents are invited to walk/run with us.

## Oakwood School Council

Our first School Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 29th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. At this time elections will be held. If you are interested in becoming a member please complete the attached form to be a representative or to hold an elected position.

During the 2010 – 2011 school year our school council was active with a variety of fund raising activities. Listed below are the fund raising activities School Council held and the profit realized from each event.

Norcard	\$2202.87
Christmas basket raffle	\$ 546.76
Cookie Dough	\$ 906.52
Fun Fair	\$1189.96

### **The profits were used for the following:**

Committed to:

Sign repair	\$ 200.00
Repair of special needs playground	\$ 500.00
Agendas 2011-2012	\$1000.00
Team uniforms	\$ 840.00
Turkey dinner donation	\$ 243.25
Carousel players (primary)	\$ 508.50
Grade 8 graduation	\$1100.00

I hope you will consider putting your name forth. It is a great opportunity to get involved in your child=s education.

## **Today's Correspondence**

Today your child will bring home a number of important forms which need to be completed. Please return the completed and signed forms to school as soon as possible.

It is vital to keep student information up to date throughout the year. In the unfortunate event that your child takes ill or is injured, we will make every effort to reach you, but we also need additional names and numbers in case we cannot contact you. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Not included in this package are:

1. Volunteer Driver form: If you anticipate driving students to school functions this year at all, please request this form from the office as soon as possible. Each volunteer driver must complete this form each year (one form per driver, per vehicle, per year).
2. Medication form: If any medication is to be dispensed at school, a form must be completed by the parent and the attending physician. All medication included in one of these forms must arrive at the school with the prescription label on the container, with the label information matching the completed form.
3. Included in the "Back to School Package" is a copy our daily schedule for you to keep on hand. Yard supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. each day. Students should not arrive before that time. Students should leave the school promptly at dismissal. There is no yard supervision after 3:15 p.m. Bussed students remain indoors and are called to the front when their bus arrives.

### **Magazine Campaign and Renewals**

Our annual magazine fundraiser will begin on September 27th and run through to October 11th. New orders and renewals will be accepted. Profits are used to support special events, activities and sports teams. Thank you for your ongoing support. More details will follow in the weeks to come. So if you have any renewals please wait for our magazine campaign and support Oakwood School.

### **Milk Orders**

Once again chocolate and white milk will be available for purchase daily for 75 cents for 250 ml. You can preorder milk for the month and send in payment at that time for the whole month – no more searching for change in the morning. Please return the enclosed milk order form and payment as soon as possible.

### **Class organization and Staff Assignments**

Mrs. Henderson.....Junior and Senior Kindergarten  
Miss Wright.....Grade one  
Mr. Tonnie.....Grade two  
Mrs. Crumb.....Grades two and three  
Mrs. Schonewille.....Grades three and four  
Mrs. Nassar and Mr. McLean.....Grades five and six  
Mr. Bartok.....Grades six and seven  
Mr. Wilson.....Grades seven and eight  
Mr. Hockley.....Learning Resource Teacher, computers, library  
Madame Mazza.....French  
Mrs. Tufts.....Special Needs  
Mr. Summerhayes.....Special Needs  
Mrs. Bodner.....Educational Assistant  
Mrs. Crowe..... Educational Assistant  
Ms Guzda..... Educational Assistant  
Mrs. Kramer..... Educational Assistant  
Ms Andrews..... Educational Assistant  
Mrs. Vrbanac..... Educational Assistant  
Mrs. Fallon.....Secretary  
Mr. Thompson.....Head Caretaker  
Mrs. Adams.....Assistant Caretaker  
Mrs. Jasmin .....Assistant Caretaker  
Mrs. Lovegrove.....Lunch Supervisor  
Mrs. Yates.....Lunch Supervisor  
Mrs. Grundy.....Youth Counsellor  
Mrs. Oakes.....Principal

### **SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DRAW**

Fill in the answers to the following Askill-testing@ questions, then hand into your teacher who will ensure it is placed in the draw box at the office for a prize.

1. How does the use of a student organizer/agenda help you to be a better student?

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1. When is the next Early Release Day?

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

***Newsletter Questions and Answers***

Do you have any questions about the school or curriculum that you would like to see answered in our newsletter? If so, send it in with the newsletter draw form and we will do our best to provide the answer in next month=s edition.

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