

Churchill Heights P.S. Newsletter September 2018



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Message from the Principal

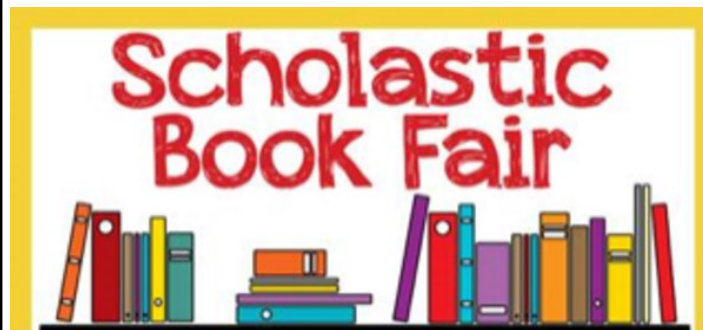
Dear Parents/Guardians:
On behalf of the Churchill Heights P.S. staff, I would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year. As we start this new school year the students and staff are filled with enthusiasm and energy, as we look ahead to new experiences and challenges.

I would like to welcome back all previous students and their families, and extend a special welcome to all our new families that have made the Churchill Heights P.S. community their new home. A special welcome to the Junior Kindergarten students who are new to the school and are starting their educational career as well as our new Grade 4 Gifted students. I know that you will find the staff approachable, friendly and ready to help in every way.

As the new school year begins, we welcome to our staff: Mr. M. Calce (LTO Grade 4 Gifted), Ms. C. Pallotta (LTO Grade 1/2), Ms. E. Ibrahim (ECE), Ms. J. Walder (SNA), Ms. A. Khanam (Lunchroom Supervisor). We are pleased to welcome back Mrs. K. Ali who has returned from maternity leave.

With the arrival of a new school year, it is time to re-establish regular routines. Please take the time to discuss with your child(ren) the importance of establishing a positive attitude toward school, and setting goals for completing work and to ensure success. Please take the time to read through the first 8 pages of the student agendas for our grades 1 to 8 students and the Welcome Handbook for our kindergarten students. Please sign to acknowledge that you have read and understand the responsibilities of our students. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the office and make arrangements to meet with your child's teacher or myself at 416 396-6160.



The Book Fair will be held from September 18th to 21st in the Library. This is a great opportunity to purchase some wonderful reading material while supporting our well maintained library. All profits go to buying more resources for the school, the library and the classrooms. Parents/Guardians will have an opportunity to visit the Book Fair on Curriculum Night.

Curriculum Night

This year our Curriculum Night (Open House) and Book Fair will be held on **Thursday, September 20th from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** Please visit the school with your child(ren) so you can meet and chat with their new teachers.

School Council

School Council elections will be held on Thursday, September 27th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. The last Council meeting for the outgoing council will take place at 6:00 p.m. The first meeting of the new Council will be at 7:00 p.m. Parents/guardians are encouraged to consider declaring their candidacy for election. It is extremely important that we have interested Council members who are willing to work in the best interests of all students. If you wish to declare yourself for candidacy, please complete a form and return to the school by Wednesday, September 26th. All parents are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of our school council.

Daily Dismissal

All grade 1 - 8 students will be dismissed out the back doors to the pavement area. Parents are to receive their students at their designated doors. Regular dismissal time for students in Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 8 is 3:15 p.m. Dismissal from class can occur anytime between 3:15 and 3:45 p.m. Once dismissed from their classrooms, students are expected to proceed directly home. Your assistance in reinforcing the importance of this message with your child(ren) is greatly appreciated. You can expect to be notified of your child's participation in after school activities through a letter and/or a note in the student agenda from the teacher in charge.

School Hours – Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 8

Arriving on time allows students to walk in with their fellow students and start right away with the class. It is important to give your child(ren) the opportunity to gain independence in following the school and classroom routines, and arrive on time each and every day.

Morning Entry	8:35 a.m.
Lunch	11:25 a.m. -12:25 p.m.
Afternoon Entry	12:25 p.m.
Dismissal	3:15 p.m.
School dismissal / Remedial Help	3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Safe Arrival

Please phone the school before 8:30 a.m. at 416-396-6160 and leave a message in our school's Safe Arrival mailbox if your child will be absent from school for all or part of the day.

When prior notice has not been given, the school will attempt to contact parents of students who have not arrived at school. Should your child become ill or require emergency medical treatment while at school, every attempt will be made to contact you. Please make sure that the school has up-to-date accurate information.

Medical Information

Please ensure that you have informed us of any medical concerns regarding your child. Specifically, we need to know if your child has a serious allergy that is potentially life threatening; for example, severe reactions to peanuts and nut products. We also need to be aware of medical conditions that may interfere with your child's learning. If you have not already provided us with this information when your child registered, please contact the school as soon as possible. All staff will be made aware of the names and faces of these children to ensure their safety.

Situations occasionally arise when parents request the administration of medication for their child on either a short term or long term basis. If you find yourself in this position, there are specific forms which you are required to complete with the assistance of a medical doctor, and submit to the school. Please contact the office in order to obtain the proper forms.

Student Drop-off/Pick-up

The parking lot and driveway are **NOT** to be used for picking up or dropping off students. This is in effect from **8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.** For the safety of all our students please park in the appropriate designated parking areas away from the crosswalk and bus loading zone on Brimorton Dr. and connecting streets in and around the school. Children should never be dropped off on the driver side of the car into oncoming traffic. Parents are not to make U-turns in the school area and please do not block our neighbours' driveways. Your support in **keeping our children safe** is very much appreciated.

Communication

It is important to teach students to plan their time and develop good organizational habits. Again this year, the expectation will be that all of our students from Grades 1 - 8 use an agenda.

Valuable Items

Students are asked to leave valuable items and toys at home. Electronic devices such as cell phones are not needed at school. **All communications devices will be powered off and stored out of view during the school day.** Teachers may request the use of cell phones for curriculum purposes only. Cell phones or electronic devices should not interfere with instruction or be used during the day. Unfortunately, we cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. Parents who need to contact their child are asked to call the school office. Bikes, skateboards, roller “shoes” and scooters are not to be used on school property.

Lunchroom Program

Please help us to eliminate overcrowding by having your child eat lunch at home, if possible. The time away from school during the middle of the day provides a much-needed break and can have positive results on afternoon pupil performance. If your child must remain at school for lunch, a form must be completed, provided. If you have completed a lunchroom form, your child will require a note from a parent in order to leave the school at lunch. If your child will be staying for lunch occasionally, please send a note with them on the day they will be eating lunch at school. Please make sure the lunches are sent with your child in the morning.

Peanut Allergies Alert

A number of our students are anaphylactic. Several of these children have severe, potentially life-threatening allergies to nuts/peanut oil. Many experts in the field suggest that prevention is the primary treatment of anaphylaxis. We believe that avoidance is the key to prevention. **We ask all those who bring lunches and snacks to school bring food that does not contain nuts or peanut products.** Churchill Heights students have been instructed not to share lunches or snacks.

Birthday Treats

For the safety of our students, cakes, cupcakes, donuts or any other food items brought for the entire class will NOT be permitted. We ask the parents who choose to send in a birthday celebration treat bring items such as pencils, bookmarks, etc. Help keep our students SAFE.

ILE Elementary Programs

Information for the International Languages and African Heritage Programs has arrived in the office. If you are interested in either program, please come to the office for the brochure.

Character Development

Staff and students will be focusing on Respect for the month of September. Respect of Self, Others and Property is an important value to address, and to have students understand how it impacts on our daily lives.

“Every human being, of whatever origin, of whatever station, deserves respect. We must each respect others even as we respect ourselves.” (U. Thant - Author)

September - Respect

October - Responsibility

November - Empathy

December - Kindness / Caring

January - Teamwork

February - Fairness

March - Honesty

April - Co-operation

May - Integrity

June - Perseverance

Homework Policy

Homework can be defined as an important and relevant learning activity that is related to the school program. It is a planned and purposeful part of the total program and is linked to The Ontario Curriculum learning expectations and the Ministry of Education reporting guidelines.

There are four types of commonly assigned homework:

- Completion of any work assigned during the school day not completed in class
- Practice any work that reviews and reinforces skills and concepts taught in class
- Preparation of any work that prepares students for upcoming lessons or classes
- Extension of any work that explores and refines learning in new contexts or integrates and expands classroom learning

“No homework shall be assigned on scheduled holidays.”

Safety Tips

Here are a few back to school safety tips for children and their parents.

1. Work out a safe route to school with your children. Choose the quickest way with the fewest street crossings and use intersections with crossing guards. Stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields and other places where there aren't many people around.
2. Whenever possible walk to and from school with a friend, brother or sister. Try not to go alone.
3. Be sure that the children know their home phone number and address, the number of the parents work place and or a relative and how to use the 911 number for emergencies.
4. Never talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers.
5. If you bike or skate to school, wear a helmet and lock up your bike with a sturdy lock wherever you leave it.

6. If you are home alone after school, check in with a parent or a trusted neighbour as soon as you arrive home.

7. Let parents or guardians know ahead of time if you are planning to stay late after school. Get permission first if you want to play with a friend before going home.

8. If you see anyone that makes you uneasy or something that does not seem right such as - a stranger hanging around the school, a bigger kid bullying smaller children, or vandalism, tell a teacher, parent or the police.

9. When car pooling, drop off and pick up the children as close to the school as possible. Don't leave until they have entered the school yard or building.

10. If your child has to spend time at home alone after school.

- Set up rules for locking doors and windows and answering the door or telephone.
- Have the child call you to make sure that they have arrived home safely.
- Make sure that they do not tell anyone that they are home alone.
- Agree on rules for inviting friends over or going to a friends home when there is no adult home.

11. And last but not least, take the time to listen carefully to children's fears, feelings and things that make them uneasy or afraid. Tell them to trust their instincts. Take their concerns seriously and talk with them on a weekly basis.

Crime Prevention Police

