

FAIRGLEN WELCOME LETTER, SEPTEMBER 2019

Welcome all new and returning students to Fairglen Jr. P.S. I hope everyone enjoyed the summer months, and is ready to begin the year with renewed energy, enthusiasm and a focus on achievement.

At Fairglen Junior Public School, we work in a partnership with our students, parents, staff, and the community to develop and maintain a safe, nurturing, positive and respectful learning environment. We believe that when children enjoy coming to school, feel safe and secure, and have the benefit of committed teachers and supportive families that they will be destined for success. We will be engaging your child in exciting and meaningful programs throughout the school year, including intensive study of the curriculum, field trips, assemblies, and regularly scheduled special event days. Your child will also be given an opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities which include clubs, teams and a variety of other activities. We are committed to ensuring that students are learning together with spirit and pride!

We will continue to focus our efforts on improving student achievement through a variety of proven effective teaching and assessment strategies. As teachers provide students with learning opportunities that are individualized, rich in higher order thinking, student voice, inquiry, and in the use of technology, students will develop the skills that will be essential to them in their day-to-day life and in their future careers.

We demonstrate and encourage a very high standard of behaviour which transcends our differences and expresses our common humanity. We believe that character matters. We teach and encourage such attributes as respect, responsibility, kindness and caring, perseverance, honesty, integrity, teamwork, cooperation, empathy, and fairness. At Fairglen, we are preparing our learners to be responsible, caring and contributing citizens; to develop the emotional and social skills to assist them with their academic achievement.

As we begin a new year it is necessary to review the foundational principles to student success:

- a) regular attendance and punctuality – students need to attend school on a regular basis and arrive on time. Students who miss out on key content, knowledge and skills will experience difficulty in their academic attainment. It may also be more challenging for them to develop and sustain friendships, and to develop social skills.
- b) sleep habits – a good guide to sleep habits is set by the National Sleep Foundation; children between 5 – 10 years of age need about 10 hours of sleep a night, while adolescents require between 8 – 10 hours.
- c) health and nutrition – students need to engage in physical activity both in and outside of school and ensure they are eating a balance of healthy foods.
- d) homework habits and parental involvement – students need to develop routine habits around completing homework and reading on a nightly basis, eg. Set a regular time for completing homework/reading; set a routine location where the homework will be completed.

Students of parents who show an interest in their child's learning are more likely to be successful in school.

Regular and accessible school-home communication is important to the success of our students. Being mindful of reducing our ecological footprint, we send out the monthly newsletter electronically through the School Connects e-mail, reducing the need for paper copies. Please ensure you sign the 'Use of Personal E-mail Address' on the back of the Permission/Consent Form in the September package. This will ensure you receive school communications via e-mail. If you require a paper copy, please send a note with your child to the office and we will ensure your child continues to receive one. All other paper communications will be sent home on Wednesdays as much as possible.

Our School Council Elections will be taking place in mid-September. The flyer will be sent home shortly. We are looking for parents to fill the School Council positions. Your voice and participation are a valued and essential part of the Fairglen learning community.

Classroom Organization:

When organizing classes, we take into consideration a number of important factors to provide an optimum learning environment for your child. These include: class size, a range of student performance levels, gender, and special needs in order to achieve balance in our classrooms. When we meet as a staff to create class placements, we consider the strengths and needs of all of the students in the grade in order to find the best possible placement for your child in September.

When children are exposed to a variety of teaching styles and classmates, they learn to work with differing personalities, they make new friends and they develop coping strategies that will serve them not only in the workplace but in all of life.

School Organization 2019-2020:

Important: Please be aware that teaching assignments, class, and student assignments may be subject to change up until the end of September throughout the Board's realignment process.

Welcome to Ms. Mona Joshan who is teaching our Library program in the afternoon, and to Ms. Devon Johnson who is the occasional teacher assigned to our Grade 2/3 class until further notice. Ms. Hira Munir, a long time teacher at Fairglen will be returning from an extended leave and we are very excited to have her return! We are also welcoming Ms. Marion Alvis, Child and Youth Worker, as well as Mr. Michael Facun, Special Needs Assistant. We extend a huge welcome to

them all!! Ms. Jennifer Cosgrove is on a short term leave and an occasional teacher will be hired shortly to replace her in her absence.

Due to the TDSB 67.8 Million funding shortfall stemming from Provincial Ministry cut-backs, schools have been ordered to close classrooms to reduce caretaking allocations. Our school has been directed to close 2 'enclosed' classrooms. In consultation with staff at the end of June and in order to create spaces in the school that are most conducive to learning here are the room assignments:

JK/SK Room 3, Ms. Laura Korac, Ms. Soula Nitsotolis (ECE)
JK/SK Room 4, Ms. Jennifer Cosgrove
Gr. 1/2 Room 5, Ms. Simmi Cutting
Gr. 1/2 Room 6, Ms. Hira Munir
Gr. 2/3 Room 2, Long Term Occasional Teacher Ms. Devon Johnson
Gr. 3/4 Room 1, Ms. Kelly Whitmarsh
Gr. 4 Gifted ISP Room 7, Mr. Josh Hart
Gr. 4/5 Gifted ISP Room 21, Ms. Rita Polichronopoulos
Gr. 4/5 Room 22, Ms. Mona Wilson
Gr. 5/6 Room 23, Ms. Liesel Kerr and Ms. June Yee
Gr. 5/6 Gifted ISP Open Space 2, Mr. John Robinson
Gr. 6 Gifted ISP Room 24, Ms. Lindsay Luborsky
Gr. 5/6 Gifted ISP Room 25, Ms. Clara McWatters

Library/Prep Coverage
Special Education Home School Program/Resource
French/ELL Resource
French/Prep Coverage
Physical Education/Media Literacy & IT
Special Education EA/SNA
Special Needs Assistant A.M.
Office Administrator
Chief Caretaker
Caretaker (evening)
Principal

Library, Ms. Mona Joshan
Room 23, Ms. June Yee
Open Space 3, Ms. Karin Thiang
Open Space 1, Ms. Mona Elbl
Mr. Ben Gordon
Ms. Maria Barros
Mr. Michael Facun
Ms. Cheryl Stobart
Mr. La Soeur
TBA
Ms. Lisa Zwicker

The school day schedule for 2019-20 is listed below. Please note the start and end time for your child's program: JK – Grade 6

8:40 - Morning Entry

8:45 - 11:25 A.M. Program

11:25 -12:25 Lunch

12:25 Afternoon Entry

12:30 - 3:10 P.M. Program

Students arriving/departing via TDSB busses will be picked up/dropped off at our bus loop at the back of John A. MacDonald C.I., and will be supervised by a Fairglens staff member.

Safe Arrival:

Students attend school from 8:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. Please do not bring your child to school more than 10 minutes before the start of the day, as students are not permitted in the school before the bell rings. Teachers are will not be on yard duty to oversee the safety and supervision of your child until this time. Students are expected to wait in line outside of their designated door until a teacher arrives to bring them in.

For reasons of safety, parents and guardians are asked to please not wait in the hallways, thus eliminating the distraction and overcrowding that result from too many people in a small enclosed area. If you are going to be late, or if someone new will be picking up your child after school, **please call and let the school know**, in order that we can assure the safe dismissal of your child. Your child will not be released from school without notice from the guardian. Your child's regular and prompt attendance at school is crucial to his or her success. In cases of illness, emergency or unavoidable circumstances, call and inform the school of your child's absence. You can speak to our Office Administrator Ms. Stobart, or leave a message on the answering machine at 416-396-6235.

When picking up your child for an appointment, please ensure you do so through the office. **Ms. Stobart will contact the classroom teacher over the intercom to send your child, together with their belongings to the office to meet you.** Parents are asked to not go to the classroom. Therefore, classes are not interrupted, children are formally signed out of the office, and their whereabouts are known at all times.

Parking/Pick Up and Drop Off at Sir John A. MacDonald

If you pick up or drop off your child to school, please do so at the back of Sir John A. MacDonald's parking lot. The community is reporting many traffic concerns around lack of safety, congestion and illegal driving on Sesame St. and Fairglen Ave. Please use the back of the MacDonald parking lot in order to alleviate these issues.

Junior Students:

There is a TDSB bus loop at the back of the Sir John A. MacDonald lot that is **supervised by a Fairglen Staff member**. There is also a pathway located there that connects the parking lot to the Fairglen property. Junior students are expected to walk on the pathway that leads to our supervised pavement and playground area.

Primary Students:

Parents of Primary students are asked to park their vehicle and walk their child(ren) to/from the Sir John A. MacDonald parking lot along the path that leads around the back of our school and onto the paved area. The parking lot at the **front** of Fairglen school is only allotted to parents for parking who need to arrive early to pick up their child for an appointment. **Please do not park**

in the staff parking lot at the side of the building. We have a large staff and spaces need to be reserved for their use.

Transportation

If your child takes a TDSB bus to school for our Gifted ISP programs, please note that when Transportation is cancelled in the morning due to inclement weather, it is cancelled for the entire day, that means the afternoon route as well. Please see the TDSB Transportation website for more information.

Reminder About Lunches

If your child stays for lunch, kindly ensure they are prepared with a lunch from home. **Please remember to send appropriate cutlery (forks, spoons)** as cutlery is not available from the office.

Also, **please do not drop off take out lunches.** We realize that there can be exceptions, however, take-out lunches interfere with the smooth operation of the office. This will help alleviate storing and distribution as well as the classroom disruptions. Of course, you may take your child out for lunch by signing out your child in the office.

We have boomerang lunches at school and encourage all students to bring their food waste and recyclable containers home.

Lunchtime should be a happy, safe and relaxed time for all children and staff. School-wide expectations are designed to encourage this atmosphere and not to be unduly restrictive. Please encourage your child to follow lunch routines, such as focus on eating, using quiet voices to talk to a neighbor, raising their hand to use the washroom, keeping hands, feet and objects to themselves, and most importantly, following the directions of the lunchroom supervisor.

Curriculum Night

This year Curriculum Night is set to be held on September 19, 2019 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Please hold the date. A flyer will be sent home soon.

I look forward to seeing you all in September. Please visit the school at any time by making an appointment through the office and/or your child's teacher. **All visits must first begin with signing in at the office.** Either Cheryl Stobart (our Office Administrator), or myself will be happy to greet you!

Kind regards,

Lisa Zwicker, Principal