**The SQUAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAK!**

***We had a wonderful first week here at John Fisher! There is lots of information this first week (hence the extra-long Squawk).***

***Information about happenings at John Fisher, including an up to date school calendar, can be found at*** [***http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnfisher/home.aspx***](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnfisher/home.aspx)

***You can also follow us on twitter at*** [***@JFLPenguins***](https://twitter.com/JFPenguins)

**Staffing**

We are thrilled to welcome some new people into our John Fisher community. Monsieur Aeschelmann will be teaching class 1A until Madame Oxford returns from parental leave. Monsieur Aeschelmann has many years of teaching experience including work at the Ministry of Education as well as experience as a school principal! We also welcome Monsieur Chin, who will be teaching class 1C. Monsieur Chin is passionate about sports, music and technology and will be a great addition to our team.

**A Message from our School Council**

Hello John Fisher parents!

Welcome to the 2015-2015 school year. My name is Anne Carty and I am chair of the John Fisher school council. A lot goes on at a school like John Fisher and for those of us who have been around for a while it is easy to forget that for new parents, the school experience is quite novel and can be overwhelming. The purpose of this letter is to give parents, experienced and new, a brief overview of our school council and the many initiatives that we will be undertaking during this school year.

**School Directory**

I encourage all of you to access our online form to submit your information to our family directory. This link will be accessible until midnight, Wednesday, September 23rd. More information about the directory, which includes a parent volunteer form, can be found at this link: [**http://tinyurl.com/jfdirectory**](http://tinyurl.com/jfdirectory).

**School Council**

The John Fisher school council is made up of an executive, consisting of the positions of chair (me), treasurer (Maryam Meffe) and secretary (Sandra Kwon).

Our school council meets once a month, except in December and March, at 6:45 pm in the library. The dates of the school council meetings are tentatively set for September 29, October 20, November 17, January 19, February 16, April 19 and May 17 (a June meeting will be scheduled if required) – these dates will be confirmed at the first school council meeting on September 29th. Meetings are open to all parents. Attendance is encouraged. It is a good opportunity to find out what is happening at the school, to voice concerns and to get an update from our administration.

Any parent who wishes may be elected to be a voting member of the school council by attending our first school council meeting on September 29th, by filling out the relevant section of the parent volunteer form (see link above) or by emailing me directly in advance of the meeting indicating your desire to be a voting member. A voting member of the school council is eligible to vote on any school council issue if, as a council, we are unable to come to a consensus. Please note that any parent may attend and participate at our monthly school council meetings; it is only in the event of a lack of consensus on any particular vote that the voting will be restricted to elected voting members of the school council (this is a rare occurrence).

In addition, any parent who wishes may serve as part of the Finance Committee, which is chaired by our school Treasurer. Anyone who wishes to be a member of the Finance Committee must be voted in as a member of that committee at the first meeting of the school council, either by attending the meeting or by emailing me directly in advance of the meeting. The Finance Committee will meet early in the year to recommend to the school council a budget for the 2015-2016 school year. The budget is based on requests submitted to the Finance Committee by the administration, staff and chairs of school council committees.

We have several committees that operate as part of the school council, each of which is headed by one or more chairs/co-chairs.

Among our numerous committees are the following:

**Lunch Committee (Liane Downs and Helen Bucknell)**

**Fundraising Committee (Vertina Tsang)**

**After Four Committee (Tonina Dumic)**

**Welcome and Recognition (Tanya Razek and Jodi Grant)**

**Health and Safety Committee (Candace Holtzman)**

We encourage all parents to get involved in school council, both by attending monthly meetings and by volunteering for one or more of our many committees. Please complete our parent volunteer survey at [**http://tinyurl.com/jfdirectory**](http://tinyurl.com/jfdirectory) by midnight, Wednesday, September 23rd to indicate your willingness to get involved!

**Welcome Back Barbeque**

We hope to see everyone at John Fisher’s annual **Welcome Back BBQ on Monday, September 21st** (note new date). This is a great opportunity for parents and students, new and not so new to meet, mingle and share a meal. More details will become available very soon.

**Fundraising at John Fisher**

Like every school in the TDSB, John Fisher relies heavily on fundraising initiatives to raise money to supplement our school’s budget. In 2014-2015, through our various committees, the school council raised approximately $54,000. Those funds will be used to pay for programs held at John Fisher during the 2015-2016 school year. To give you an idea, in 2015, the school council funded band and strings, scientists in the classroom, cultural enrichment activities, participation in sporting clubs and technology in the classroom to name but a few. Our fundraising initiatives are extremely important to the enriched experience that our children benefit from at John Fisher.

*Fundraising Initiatives*:

Each year, the fundraising committee works very hard to raise funds for our children. Perhaps the simplest way of donating to John Fisher is through direct donations. For those who wish, a direct donation to the school council is an excellent way of contributing to our fundraising efforts, as all proceeds from donations go directly to the students through our annual budget process. Our Fundraising Committee will be providing more information about direct donations in the coming weeks.

We also engage in a number of other fundraising initiatives throughout the school year. Each year the school council holds two major fundraising events. The first is an adult, ticketed silent and live auction called The Fete. This amazing, fun event involves local businesses and parents donating their goods and services for the live and silent auction. The evening is always a fun party where parents are able to eat, drink and be merry – for once without the little ones afoot! More details about getting involved in the Fete will be available in early 2016.

Our second major fundraiser is our annual June Fair – which is fun for the whole family but is really a highlight for the kids. We have inflatables, carnival food, games – and all kinds of fun – hopefully in lovely June weather! As much fun as it is, the June Fair requires an army of volunteers. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our Fundraising Committee carries on additional initiatives throughout the year. This year we will be introducing a pizza lunch fundraiser, three times per term. More information will be provided to you about these initiatives from our Fundraising Committee.

Towards the end of the school year, our grade 6 students will likely start some weekly fundraising, such as freezie sales, to generate funds to offset the cost of the grade 6 graduation.

**Noon Enrichment**

As many children bus to and from school, almost all of our students eat lunch at school. The Lunch Committee helps to ensure a safe and fun environment for children in Grades 1-6 through the "Noon Enrichment Program".  The committee organizes the staffing of this program, as well as all of its materials and supplies (games, arts and crafts materials and Lego). They also help to coordinate programs through the lunch hour through outside agencies. Pizza lunches (which are school wide and run 2-4 times/year and are separate from the fundraising pizza lunches) are also coordinated through this committee. More information about the Noon Enrichment Program will be sent to you in the coming days.

**Hot Lunches – Real Food for Real Kids**

During the 2015-2016 school year, we are introducing a hot lunch program at John Fisher. **THIS IS NOT A FUNDRAISER**. The school council has arranged for a third party hot lunch provider, Real Food for Real Kids ([www.rfrk.com](http://www.rfrk.com)), to sell and provide hot lunches to students two days per week. In the coming weeks we will be sending you all of the details required to participate in the hot lunch program.

**Kiss n’ Ride**

Traffic congestion is a significant safety concern at John Fisher. With the tremendous amount of construction in our neighbourhood, drop-off in the morning is quite tricky. We ask that you please do not drop off at the front of the school on Erskine – this area is reserved for bus drop-off. Instead, please use the Kiss n’Ride area on Keewatin Avenue. Parent volunteers will be there in the morning to assist your children in safely getting out of your car and into the schoolyard. We are always looking for volunteers for Kiss n’Ride. If you are able to volunteer or would like additional information, please contact Tanya Razek at trazek@rogers.com.

The foregoing is by no means a complete overview of all that happens at John Fisher. We will do our best to keep you up to date with our website (www. http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnfisher/Parents.aspx) as well as through Twitter (@JFPenguins) and weekly through the Squawk. As always, I am happy to hear from you at any time at accarty@yahoo.com.

Thank you – and GO PENGUINS!

Anne Carty (accarty@yahoo.com)

**TERRY FOX -- We are celebrating our 10th anniversary**

**Save the dates**

We are proud to be participating in the 35th Terry Fox National Run. Here at John Fisher we have been running "Just like Terry" for the past 9 years and have raised over $60,000 since we started in 2006. Last year, we broke our record and raised over 11,000$ for cancer research. We are very proud to run together for such a worthy cause, to increase awareness and just have fun!

Our**kick-off assembly is Friday, September 25 at 1:00** and will include the much anticipated **Cut-off-Cancer event** where volunteer students donate their own hair to help make wigs for cancer patients. If your child in interested in participating this year. Please read the information below and let the organizers know.

The day of the **run will be Wednesday, September 30th.** Classes will come out in shifts throughout the day. Stay tuned for more information. Please consider coming out to volunteer that day. It is truly inspiring to watch our students run "Just like Terry"!

Please contact Erika Boone at  theboones@sympatico.ca if you are interested to volunteer.

The cut-off cancer campaign has become hugely popular. Many students have donated their hair over the past few years to help make wigs for cancer patients. Students need to have **at least** an 8 inch ponytail to donate and, of course, the permission of their parents. Students can decide to have their hair cut privately and bring it to the assembly. Some students have their hair cut on stage in front of the school at our annual Terry Fox kick-off assembly. We have stylists on hand to help with the process and give haircuts to our brave students. If you are interested and/or have questions please contact Benita at benita\_w@yahoo.com. **The Terry Fox assembly will be Friday, September 25 at 1:00.**Merci!

**After-4 - FUN after school at John Fisher!**

John Fisher's After-4 Program is revving up to offer 6 exciting after-school programs this fall: CODING, YOGA, CHESS, MANDARIN etc.  Starting the week of October 5 thru till December 11, sign your kids up for fun with their friends after school until 4:45pm.

Information to be posted soon and 2-page flyer coming home next week!

**Interested in Working at an Election Poll?**

John Fisher will be hosting election polls this year. If you are interested in working please contact Elections Canada directly at 416-429-4305 or [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

**Go Penguins!!!**