

This is an important message from Nelson Mandela Park Public School. If you need help reading this letter please let the school know so we can make future accommodations.

### **NMPPS Weekly Message Saturday, September 9, 2023**

The halls of Nelson Mandela have been buzzing with energy and excitement as our students return for a new school year. The first week is all about building classroom communities and creating safe and inclusive learning environments. Just as our NMPPS team is growing, with many new faces in the building, we took the opportunity to gather for our own 'Meet and Greet' to get to know one another better.



In the midst of this excitement, there has also been a lot of learning. In the attached picture, you can see students in room G34 - FDKC, actively engaged in a STEM Inquiry project. They were encouraged to build and create images from their imagination or replicate structures from their everyday lives.



Over the next few weeks, you can expect numerous updates and important information as we settle into the new school year. It's crucial that we have your most up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses on record. If you know of any families who did not receive this email, please urge them to contact the school so we can update their information. Additionally, if you are aware of families that require assistance with accessing online communication, forms, or language support, please inform us so that we can provide the necessary accommodations.

Sudeep Sanyal, Principal

### **Lunch Forms**

Lunch forms and letters were distributed to all students last Friday. In case they didn't make it home or ended up at the bottom of backpacks, we've attached copies of the forms below. Please note that only grade 7 and 8 students are permitted to leave the school premises to purchase lunch, with the expectation that they remain off the property until the entry bell at 12:27 PM. For JK-6 students, lunch will be provided at school unless they are going home or have alternative lunch plans. These students, too, are expected to remain off the property until the entry bell at 12:27 PM. Kindly return all lunch forms by Monday, September 11th, to ensure an accurate lunchtime attendance record. Students without a signed form will not be allowed to leave the school property during lunch.

[Grade 7/8 Lunch Letter and Form](#)  
[Grade JK-6 Lunch Letter and Form](#)

### **Breakfast, Snack and Hot Lunch**

All our snack programs will commence on Monday, September 11th. Payments for Hot Lunch and donations for the Snack and Breakfast Program will be facilitated through SchoolCashOnline. More information about SchoolCashOnline below. We will continue to use envelopes for payments temporarily but will eventually transition to online payments. Envelopes and menus were sent home with students last Friday.

**Hot Lunch** is open to all students at any time during the school year. The menu for our hot lunch program will be shared with families on a monthly basis. The cost for September is \$20 as it is only 3 weeks. The hot lunch program is optional. [September Hot Lunch Menu](#)

**Breakfast** is available to all students, a Grab and Go cart will be setup at the front entrance of the school between 8:20-8:55 AM. There is no cost.

**Snack** is distributed in class each morning and available to all students. We do ask for contributions to help cover the cost of the Snack and Breakfast program.

### **School Cash Online**

Nelson Mandela Park Public School utilizes School Cash Online, allowing families to conveniently pay for school fees (e.g., snack program, field trips, in-school presentations, pizza lunch). If you haven't already signed up for School Cash Online, you can do so here: [School Cash Online Signup Link](#). This platform accepts both credit and debit card payments. We encourage all families to sign up in advance using the provided link to receive email notifications when items become available for purchase.

### **Start of Year Forms**

This is a friendly reminder to complete the 'Start of Year Forms' as soon as possible. These important forms include Medical Information, Consent for Walking Excursions, and Use of Online Devices, among others. Any previous issues with the forms have been resolved, and all forms have been successfully delivered to families. As mentioned before, these forms are digital and sent to the email address on file with the school. Please check your inbox and junk mail folders if you have not completed them. The email subject will be 'TDSB Online Form Permission Click.'

### **School Council**

Welcome back from the Mandela School Council! We are excited to see so many friendly faces returning and extend a very special welcome to all the new families and staff. Nelson Mandela Park Public School is a special place where we celebrate diversity and all of the incredible students and staff who make our school an awesome place to be! We look forward to engaging more parents and caregivers and planning new school council activities this year.

All parents and caregivers are warmly invited to participate in the school council. Stay tuned for details of the first school council meeting and elections. More information about the role of School Councils is available at: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-get-involved/School-Councils>

### **Inclement Weather**

Dress for the weather. Ensure your child comes to school with the appropriate rain gear as we will be going outside during recess when the rainfall is light. Students will also be lining up first thing in the morning to enter the building – so they will need protection from the rain. Umbrellas, rain boots, raincoats etc. would be ideal. Regardless of the season, weather can have an impact on system-wide school board operations or individual schools, staff and students. Whether it's cold and snow or extreme

heat, the Toronto District School Board has a number of practices and policies in place to manage the impact of this weather on the school board. <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Severe-Weather>

### **Parent Communication Protocol**

The TDSB wants to hear your questions and concerns, and makes every effort to address them as quickly as possible. Below is the best way to talk to us, and who you should reach out to and when. In any situation, your child's classroom teacher is the first point of contact, followed by the school's principal, the school superintendent and your Trustee. <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Contact-Us/Steps-to-Address-Questions-Concerns>

### **Trustee Letter - Deborah Williams**

Please read the [welcome letter for the 2023-2024 school year from Trustee Deborah Williams](#) .

### **Upcoming Dates:**

Attached is a copy of the [2023-2024 Elementary School Year Calendar](#) . Below are some important dates for Nelson Mandela Park.

- Terry Fox Run - Sept 26th
- Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night - Sept. 28th
- Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Sept 30th

### **Anaphylaxis – Taking the Necessary Precautions**

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain Peanuts.