

THREE MILE PLAINS DISTRICT SCHOOL

www.tmpds.ednet.ns.ca
902-792-6720



NEWSLETTER September, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The staff at Three Mile Plains District School would like to welcome you and your family to the 2017-18 school year! We would like to extend a special welcome to the new students and families that are joining us this year! We are very excited to have the privilege of working together with you and your child this year!!

The following information is provided to help you become familiar with our school's organization, policies, procedures and services. **We encourage you to read it carefully and keep it on hand, along with our school calendar (fridge magnet), for reference. We will also do our very best to keep you informed about our school through our school website, monthly newsletters, email, important notices, etc. for you to refer to. Your child's teacher will also be informing you on the various ways that he or she will be communicating with you this year.**

2017-2018 School Staff:

| | | | |
|---------|--------------|--|----------------|
| Gr. P/1 | Mrs. Isaac | Principal | Mr. Campbell |
| Gr. P/1 | Mrs. Whidden | Secretary | Mrs. Blanchard |
| Gr. 1/2 | Mrs. Kerr | Teacher Assts. | |
| Gr. 2/3 | Mrs. Lewis | Ms. Ross | |
| Gr. 3/4 | Ms. Madden | Mrs. Zwicker | |
| Gr. 4/5 | Mrs. May | Ms. Church | |
| Gr. 4/5 | Mrs. Nehme | Mrs. Card | |
| | | Mrs. DeMont (Freda Waddell until Jan/18) | |
| | | Melanie Wilson | |

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Reading Recovery | Ms. Earley |
| Literacy Support | Ms. Coleman |
| Resource/Learning Centre | Ms. White |
| Guidance | TBA |
| Math Support | Mr. Shynal (shared between 2 schools) |
| Phys Ed. | Miss Allen |
| Music | Miss Laffin |
| Librarian | Mrs. Lake |
| African Nova Scotian Literacy/Numeracy Support & Student Support | Mrs. Goodwin and Mrs. Beals-Wentzell |
| Cafeteria | Mrs. Sampson |
| Janitors | Ms. Carson and Mr. Bullock |

Although we will miss the staff that have left our school, we are very excited and happy to have many new staff joining us this year! **The entire staff at Three Mile Plains School are all very excited to be working with you and your child this year!**

SCHOOL HOURS

The school building will be **OPEN to accept children at 7:55 a.m.** and the day ends at **2:10 p.m.** Please remember to **have your child arrive at school no earlier than 7:55 a.m. and no later than 8:15 a.m.** Students who are being dropped off are asked to use the main front doors by the office. Children who are on the grounds at any other time will not be the responsibility of the school except when school sponsored events are held. Parents will be notified of special events or when children are being kept after school for any reason. Thank you for your cooperation!

STUDENT DROP OFF IN THE MORNING: We encourage students to be transported to school on the bus, however if you are dropping your child off, please drop them off as close to the main doors as possible (without pulling in and parking) and then continue to follow the arrows that will lead you back down the driveway. (it's a little bit like a round a-bout) **Please do not drive around the school as only school busses are permitted to do so for the safety of your child.** If you have to come into the building in the morning, please pull over to the right before you reach the office area and come in. Please do not park in the designated staff spaces as we need all of them for the staff. We ask that students not be dropped off any earlier than 7:55 a.m. and no later than 8:15 a.m. Thank you very much for your cooperation!

MEET THE STAFF Open House!

This year, we are planning a time for parents/guardians to meet the staff. We have decided to have an informal Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 19th from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. As well as meeting staff, you will be able to meet other groups who support our school. We will be having a free hot dog barbecue and cake for everyone to enjoy! We will have different groups who work with our school on site as well. We hope you are able to attend!

*****NUT SENSITIVE POLICY*****

To provide a safe learning environment for all students and staff our school has declared itself a Nut Safe School in accordance with the AVRSB Policy on life threatening allergies (BP 402.11).

This means that all children and staff should refrain from bringing to school any food products that contain peanuts, peanut oil and peanut butter. While this may cause inconvenience to some, it is necessary to implement in order to protect the health of those students and staff that have severe allergies to peanut products.

We do have people in our school community with a life threatening allergy to peanut and peanut products. Allergies to peanut or nut products are potentially fatal. An allergic child, either through consuming, touching or even smelling the product, may go into anaphylactic shock within minutes which can possibly be fatal.

All parents/guardians are asked to check ingredient labels on all food products to check to see if they contain peanuts or peanut oil. Products have to clearly state that they do NOT contain peanuts, peanut oil or peanut butter to be considered safe by our policy.

Students who eat peanut butter at home before coming to school should make sure they wash their hands and face before leaving home.

The school will be following these guidelines in the cafeteria. The food for purchase at the school will not have peanuts or peanut oils identified on the label.

If peanut products are found at school, they will be removed from the child's possession and parents will be contacted by the office. Please discuss this with your child.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE: There are products on the market now that look like and taste like peanut butter such as Wow Butter, but they do not contain any nut products. It is fine to use these products, but please send a note or label the sandwich container to indicate that it is an alternate nut product. Thank you for your cooperation!

STUDENT REGISTRATION FORMS: You will be receiving your child's registration form the first week of school. When you receive this form it is extremely important that you **update the information** on it **AND the form MUST BE SIGNED and returned to the school by Sept. 15, 2017.** Please keep the school informed whenever there is a change, especially when it is a new phone number or email address. Thank you very much!!!

SCENT FREE

A number of our students and staff are extremely sensitive to perfumed toiletries (i.e.. perfume, colognes, after shaves, hair gels, etc.) For some, even the slightest trace of these scents can trigger allergic reactions. We are asking all students, staff and visitors to refrain from wearing perfumed products when visiting our school.

VOLUNTEERS/VISITORS

Any one who volunteers or is a visitor to our school is required to sign in at the main office and wear a school identification badge. These are available at the office and will be given to you when you sign into the building. If you are in the building without a school identification badge you will be asked to report to the office. The only exceptions are for special events such as Parent/Teacher, Christmas Concerts, etc. Thank you for your cooperation in assisting us to keep our school as safe as possible. ALL school volunteers must complete a criminal record check and child abuse registry check before being permitted to volunteer. **If you are planning to volunteer at our school and this includes chaperoning on class trips, you should complete your checks as soon as possible. Checks must be complete and received back at the school before you will be allowed to volunteer. These checks must now be completed every 3 years as per School Board Policy.**

STUDENT SIGN IN/ SIGN OUT FOR STUDENTS

Please note, for your child's safety, parents, guardians or relatives who are picking up or dropping off students **during school hours** are required to come to the office. All students coming to school **after the 8:15 a.m. bell** must be brought in the main door to the office and signed in by the adult accompanying them. As well, when students must leave school **before 2:10 p.m.** parents/guardians **are required to report to the office.** Your child will then be called from their class to the office. If anyone other than the legal guardian is picking your child up, we require a written note. Thank you for your cooperation!

IDLE FREE ZONE: Please note that all entrances around our building are now designated as "Idle Free Zones", for the health of your children. Please turn your vehicle off when entering the building or when waiting to pick someone up. It is very surprising how fumes enter the building when your vehicle is left idling.

MEDICATION

In order for **any** medication (prescription or non-prescription) to be given at school the child's parent/guardian **must first** fill out the proper permission form available at the school office. **Prescription medication must be brought to school in its original container** with the pharmacy label attached if it is to be administered at school. A permission form is available from the office and must be signed by the parent/guardian. **Teachers do not administer medication and all medication is kept at the office.**

HOT LUNCH AND BREAKFAST

Our 2017-18 hot lunch program and morning breakfast program will begin on **Mon, Sept. 11th.** A menu and updated price list will be sent home and also posted on our web site. PLEASE enclose your child's order in an envelope or baggie and write your child's name on the outside what they are to order and the amount enclosed. Students must have their money with them if they are going to purchase items from the canteen either at recess or noon. **Lunch orders are done on a daily basis. If possible, please provide the exact amount of money as this will save staff valuable time! As well, please know that if a child forgets their lunch and we are unable to reach you that your child will be fed and you can pay the following day.**

GYMNASIUM FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING

In order to keep the gym floor maintenance to a minimum and to ensure student safety in the gym, we request that footwear for activity in the gym be SNEAKERS that can be kept inside WITH WHITE SOLES (if possible). Dark soled sneakers leave large black marks on the gym floor. We also ask that students have a pair of inside sneakers and outside footwear. Students in grades 3-5 are encouraged to wear shorts or track pants and a t-shirt for gym class. Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are encouraged to change their clothes before and after P.E. classes.

PERMISSION FORMS

If your child is participating in an after school program or class field trip where the student will be off of school property, a permission form will be sent home. If we do not receive a **signed permission form sent back**, then we cannot have him/her participate in the activity.

RECESS AND NOON HOUR

Students will almost always go outside at recess and noon hour. If it is raining or extremely cold they will be supervised indoors. Please remember that our hill is often windy and cold. Children need warm clothing to be comfortable outdoors. All children are expected to go outside. **Except for extenuating circumstances, we feel that if the children are not well enough to go outside for brief periods they should not be at school.**

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Photographers are once again booked to take school pictures. Class and individual pictures will be taken on **Monday, Oct. 2nd, 2017.**

BUS TRAVEL

We encourage you to make as few changes as possible to your child's bus routine (especially in the afternoon) as it reduces the chances of any miscommunication. **If your child is in grade Primary or One, an adult must meet them when they get off or the bus driver will return the student to the school.** If you wish your child to travel on a different bus or get off at a different stop at any time throughout the year, **you must send a note outlining your request on the day of the change.** Please include the date and exact location that your child is going on the note. All such requests must be authorized by the school before a bus driver can comply with it. In some cases the buses may be loaded to capacity. If so, the request cannot be authorized. The parent will be notified if this situation arises.

Please note that a child will be sent home to their regular stop unless a written request from a parent is received. If there are any major changes to bus routes or times, you will receive a note from the school.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Digital cameras are NOT to be brought to school unless the student is given prior permission from the teacher.

IPODS, CELL PHONES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES

We do not encourage students to bring electronic devices to school. Students are to use the phone in the main office to make phone calls.

BIRTHDAY PARTY INVITATIONS

*Reminder: We are not allowed to send out any personal information of students including phone numbers and street addresses. Birthday invitations are not to be delivered at the school by the child. Parents are asked to deliver them to the school a few days before the event **as a last resort.** . The teacher will hand out the invitations at the end of the day. However, we do not encourage this practice as we have no guarantees that once handed out, the invitation will actually arrive home with the child.*

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Consistent student attendance is important. It is understood that there are legitimate reasons why students must miss school. When this occurs, the school will work with you to ensure your child does not fall behind. Please communicate these situations with the child's teacher and the school principal. Do not hesitate to phone your child's teacher or the school Principal if you are encountering difficulties getting your child to attend school. Allow us to work with you to find solutions. We are willing to sit with you to look at your child's programming and school experiences as well as any other factors that may impact on your child attending school.

T.M.P. BREAKFAST PROGRAM

In an effort to address the reality of children coming to school without breakfast, our school has a Breakfast Program. A nutritious breakfast of cereal and juice will be available to any student who did not have breakfast regardless of the reason, before coming to school. The Breakfast Program will run out of the gymnasium and will be available daily as the buses arrive.

The cost to run this valuable program is significant and **we really need to have the support of the school community to sustain this initiative.** Donations of whole grain/non sugar-coated cereals (ie. Bran Flakes, Rice Krispies, Shreddies, etc.), cans of apple juice (please not fruit drink) would be greatly appreciated. Any donations can be sent in with your child or dropped off at the office at any time. Monetary donations are also greatly needed. Cheques may be made out to either T.M.P. Breakfast Program or to the A.V.R.S.B. Foundation if receipts are required. Our breakfast program will begin on Monday, Sept. 11th.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

Students are expected to wear conservative clothing appropriate for a learning environment when in school. This applies to all staff and volunteers.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (similar to Home and School)

The first monthly meeting of our Parent Support Group will take place on **Tuesday, Sept. 26th at 6:30 p.m.** This is a great way to come and take part in your child's educational community. We hope to see you there!

CUSTODY ISSUES

If you have a court order that limits the rights of one parent in matters of custody or visitation, please bring a copy to the Office. Unless your court order has been served and is on file with us, we must provide equal rights to both parents. You can help to create the optimal educational environment for your child.

Note: Please update the office annually with current court orders.

STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING DAY: Sept. 14th. To support this initiative, we are encouraging staff and students to wear a pink item. We will be doing a Peace Walk around our school trail from 11:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to mark this important event. Please feel free to join us in the walk! Community members welcome!

FLOURIDE RINSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are available to assist with our fluoride rinse program. Please let the main office know. There will be a training session provided and then once a week, volunteers will come to the school to help provide fluoride to those students who are participating in the program. We require more volunteers in order to keep this program running.

MODELLING APPROPRIATE SOCIAL MEDIA BEHAVIORS FOR OUR CHILDREN

Social media has become an important means of communication and of seeking information for most people. It is proving to be of particular importance for our youth as technology has become a significant part of the identity of this generation. Unfortunately, increased technology has also resulted in new social issues. It is sometimes used as a means of cyber-bullying or an exchange of inappropriate information. **It is up to us, as adults, to serve as proper role models with regards to technology use.** We need to teach our children to respect the use of technology and to be good digital citizens. In order to do this properly, we as adults must also learn to be good social citizens and to model appropriate use of social media. We must use social media tools like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc. appropriately, because our children are watching and emulating our behaviours.

For more information around proper use of social media and good digital citizenship, please visit our website at: avrsb.ca/digital

Reminders:

- Sept. 11th Breakfast and hot lunch programs begin
- Sept. 14th Pink dayí come join us at 11:45 a.m. for a Peace Walk on the school trail
- Sept. 15th Future Farmers at the Exhibition Grounds (more info. and permission forms coming home soon!)
- Sept. 19th Meet the Staff Open House from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 28th Terry Fox Walkí 11:45 a.m. All community members welcome to walk. Free will offering.
- Sept. 29th Full day in-service for staff. No school for students.
- Oct. 2rd School photo day!!!!

PHONE NUMBERS

Please remember to ALWAYS contact the school when there are changes to your phone number, email address and your emergency contact phone number. It is very important that we are able to reach you when necessary. Thank you!!!

The Incredible Years Parenting Program can help!

The incredible years parenting program is for parents of school age children. This 12 week program will address a variety of topics to strengthen all of the great parenting skills that you already have and give you the opportunity for support from other parents.

**Please Call Lisa at Public Health Services
902-798-2264**



Edalene Theatre is pleased to be offering theatre classes for children ages 4-18 at the Al Whittle Theatre's Studio Z starting in October, 2017. With 16 years of theatre education experience, Edalene is excited to bring their love of theatre to children of the Annapolis Valley! To see a full list of classes, information about enrollment, or to contact Kerri with questions, go to www.edalenetheatre.ca or call [902-799-9009](tel:902-799-9009).



“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.”

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you this year to provide the best possible learning experience that we can for your child. In order to be successful, we must work together.

Sincerely,

Mr. D. Campbell



Our school is taking part in the Nourish Nova Scotia's "Nourish Your Roots" fundraiser to support healthy food programs and activities at **Three Mile Plains School**.

You can support our students/children and local farmers by selling/buying boxes of fresh produce from Taproot Farms which represent good value and support local farmers.

Selling for \$30, each farm box will include a variety of farm-fresh, local vegetables and fruit such as carrots, potatoes, turnip, and depending on the farm/availability, a selection from apples, beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cranberries, garlic, greens, herbs, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, onions, parsnips, pears, sweet potatoes and squash.

We will be sending home move information later this month.



Attention Parents!



Do you, or someone you know, have a child who was born between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014?

If you do, plan to attend the...

WELLNESS CHECK FOR SCHOOL ENTRY 2019

The Check provides speech, hearing, vision, and other development screening for children who will begin school in 2019. Parents will also be given information about healthy development and ways to better prepare their children for school.

FREE Wellness Checks are open to future students of

Brooklyn District Elementary School, Dr. Arthur Hines Elementary School, Falmouth District School, Hantsport School, Three Mile Plains District School, Uniacke District School, Windsor Elementary School, Windsor Forks District School, and Home Schools in the West Hants and Uniacke areas

Wednesday, October 11 at Windsor Elms

Friday, October 27 at Brooklyn District School

Wednesday, November 1 at Three Mile Plains Community Hall

Thursday, November 23 at Windsor Elms

Your family can attend any of these dates/locations.

TO REGISTER your child: Call Lisa at **790-2299** and leave your name and phone number.

OR

Register online at www.wellnesscheck.ca

and Lisa will call you and arrange your appointment.

Please Note: Parents must first register their child by Phone, Online or Mail.

An appointment will be made after registration is completed.

The Wellness Check Program is sponsored by Family and Community First