

# McKay School

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# September 2016

Achieving  
Success  
Together!!



## A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

We are pleased to welcome back staff, students and parents. We would also like to welcome new students and their families to our school community.

We hope that you and your family had a wonderful summer. A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Cormier and her summer staff for getting the school clean and ready for another school year. We would also like to thank all of the staff for helping to get our classrooms ready for the opening of the 2016-17 school year. They look fabulous!

Our goal at McKay is to establish a safe, yet fun environment that fosters caring relationships between adults and students, as well as among peers. You can expect that all the educational professionals at McKay will continue to ensure all students feel valued and develop a sense of belonging while persevering to do their best at school.

We always welcome your input and sincerely believe that a key element to assisting our students to achieve excellence is having a positive relationship with our students' families. We are always willing to talk, problem solve, support and work together because your children are our children and we both want the absolute best for them!

It is important for everyone to get involved. We always appreciate our volunteers, they provide opportunities to our students that enrich their lives and school experience. Ask your child's teacher or the office how you can help.

To keep you informed about the many activities and events at McKay, a newsletter will be available on-line each month. Please visit our website at <http://mckay.dsbno.org/>. If you would like a hard copy sent home with your child(ren) please complete and return the request slip located in this newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child(ren), please do not hesitate to call the school.

We hope to see you at the Meet the Teacher Pizza Night Scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th (4:30 - 6:30 p.m.). Please keep an eye out for a separate order form that will be sent home very soon.

We sincerely look forward to working with you this year.

Mrs. Lott and Mrs. Hurd

## ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN

Each year a Student Accident Insurance Plan is made available for all students on a voluntary basis. The plan provides protection for **DENTAL DAMAGE DUE TO ACCIDENTS, FRACTURE BENEFITS AND OTHER IMPORTANT COVERAGES**, which are **NOT** covered under the Provincial Health Plan. Some parents may have Dental Plan coverage through their work but many of these plans are limited in one way or another, while this accident coverage is not. You should compare to make sure you have the coverage you need or desire.

**UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT THE BOARD IS NOT PERMITTED TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACCIDENTS TO PUPILS, THEREFORE**, the Board recommends consideration of this plan to any parent who wishes to obtain this kind of insurance. Although the policy has all the advantages of a group plan, it is essentially a direct contract between the parent and the insurance company.

Details of these plans are described on the application form which we should be receiving soon. If you require further information, you may contact **Reliable Life at Box 2046, Hamilton, L8N 9Z9 or call toll free at 1-800-465-0661**.

If you wish to subscribe to this insurance, please complete the form and mail it *directly* to Reliable Life Insurance Company in the enclosed stamped envelope immediately. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.**

You may also enrol online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) (for all plans except the \$3.50 basic plan). It costs as little as \$8 per student for one year of basic school day/school activity coverage.

If the enrolment form for the Student Accident Insurance Plan has not been received or it has been misplaced, please contact your school office.

## ALLERGY AND MEDICATION

If students require medication while at school, a medical form **MUST** be completed by your Doctor. If a student has a severe allergy (anaphylactic) and you did not receive a form on this week please contact the office. Thank you for your cooperation.

## NUT ALLERGIES

We strongly encourage parents and students to respect those who have an anaphylactic condition. We are asking students to refrain from bringing foods that contain nuts. Peanut and nut allergies are usually severe and can be fatal. Even tiny amounts of nut particles or residue can cause someone with a nut allergy to have a strong reaction. Without treatment, this person could die within minutes. Please read labels to see if peanut or nut products are present. Try to avoid products that do not carry a list of ingredients.



## GYM SHOES / INDOOR SHOES

Our custodian has worked extremely hard this summer to make our school sparkle and shine. We can show our appreciation by ensuring that our students have clean shoes to wear inside the building. In addition, for safety reasons and to help develop positive attitudes and total involvement in physical education classes, students need proper footwear for the gym.



## MCKAY SCHOOL COUNCIL

McKay School Council members would like to remind our returning families and also inform our new families that School Council elections will be held at our first meeting on **Tuesday, September 27th at 6:00 p.m.** Any parent or guardian of a child attending McKay School is able to become a member of School Council. McKay School has enjoyed the participation of an active School Council. We look forward to the continued support of our parent community. Please make an effort to attend our first meeting of the school year. A School Council Nomination form was sent home with the verification package. If you would like to nominate someone from our parent community please complete the form and submit to the office before September 27<sup>th</sup>.

## NIAGARA ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The DSBN elementary instrumental music program offers instruction on a variety of instruments including strings, bass, woodwinds, and percussion. This program is offered to all students from Grade 4 - Grade 8 and is a convenient, affordable way to learn an instrument. For more information contact the NEIM program at 905-641-2929 ext 30630, [Elementary.instrumentalmusic@dsbn.org](mailto:Elementary.instrumentalmusic@dsbn.org) or look up information at [www.freewebs.com/niagaramusic](http://www.freewebs.com/niagaramusic).



### *Bell Times*

8:50am-8:56am - Entry and Learning Skills  
8:56am – 9:44am – Period 1  
9:44am – 10:32am – Period 2  
10:32am – 10:52am – Nutrition Break – Primary/Jr – eating, Intermediates Outside  
10:52am – 11:12am – Primary/Jr – outside, Intermediate eating  
11:12am – 12:00pm - Period 3  
12:00pm – 12:48pm – Period 4  
12:48pm – 1:08pm - Nutrition Break – Primary/Jr – eating, Intermediates Outside  
1:08pm – 1:33pm - Primary/Jr – outside, Intermediate eating  
1:33pm – 2:21pm – Period 5  
2:21pm – 3:09pm – Period 6  
3:09pm – 3:15pm – Learning Skills and Dismissal

## **School Organization 2016-2017**

The District School Board on Niagara will review staffing allocation in early September. If changes need to be made to our classroom organization, the revised changes will take effect Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>. **\*\*Every attempt will be made to minimize the movement as we recognize that the students are beginning to settle into their routines already.\*\*** Your patience and support are always appreciated.

### **Staff Members and Classes**

KDG1 – Mrs. McMahon  
KDG2 – Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Hiseler (ECE)  
KDG3 – Mrs. Thomson, Miss Higgins (ECE)  
Gr. 1/2 - Mrs. Buck  
Gr. 2 – Mrs. Bidoski  
Gr. 2/3 – Mrs. Hemauer  
Gr. 3/4 - Mr. Faragalli  
Gr. 4/5 – Mrs. Hamilton  
Gr. 6/7 – Mr. Clarke-Louie  
Gr. 7/8 – Mr. Mitchell  
SEFS1 – Mme Roy  
SEFS2 – Mme Tremblay  
SEFS 2/3 – Mme Kalbfleisch  
SEFS 3/4 - Mme Suk  
SEFS 4 – Mme Clarke  
SEFS 5 – Mr Chaffart  
SEFS 6 – Mme Neville  
SEFS 7/8-1 – Mlle Walinga  
SEFS 7/8-2 – Mme Minor  
SEFS 7/8-3 – Mme Vanderlaan  
Music Rotary – Mr. Tempest  
Prep – Mr. Pelletier  
Library – Mrs. Rodrigue  
Principal – Mrs. Lott  
Vice Principal – Mrs. Hurd  
Administrative Assistants – Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Serabian  
Educational Assistants - Mrs. Detlor, Miss Kurucz, Miss Dumoulin  
Instructional Coach – Mrs. McIntyre  
Learning Resource – Mrs. Augustine, Mme Armstrong  
Lunch Supervisors – Mrs. Busch, Ms. Cardiff, Mrs. Olecka  
Head Caretaker – Mrs. Cormier  
Part Time Caretakers – Mrs. Chandler, Mrs. Gingras, Mrs. Rozic

### **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS ARE TENTATIVE!**

**\*\*Changes may be necessary as a result of many reasons which may include but are not limited to: new registrations, meeting Ministry requirements for class size caps, and/or an increase or decrease in staff as result of an increase or decrease in student population.\*\*** If any classroom assignments are being altered parents will be informed if it affects their child(ren) prior to the change.

## **Student Safety First - Leaving School at Lunch Hour**

We are very concerned about student safety and we will take all necessary precautions to ensure that we provide a safe environment for our students.

Please take note of the following:

1. Students will be asked to produce a note signed by a parent if they wish to go off school property for lunch (unless the Student Information form, included in the first day package, has been signed.)
2. Students are expected to use extreme caution when off school property and must return on time for class.
3. We also ask that McKay students use their manners and their best behaviors while out in the community.
4. Parents are asked to discuss expectations with your child. Be sure to give your child guidelines as to what kind of food you wish them to buy. Please refrain from sugary drinks and candy, as on many occasions, that is what we see.
5. Students who choose to leave during the lunch hour are reminded that they are to return in a timely manner (5 minutes prior to the bell and proceed to their designated entrance). Students should not loiter in front of the school as there is no supervision provided for that area. The front doors are NOT to be used.

### **McKay's Milk Program**

Students are encouraged to drink milk. Statistics show that many school-aged children do not get the recommended amount and this is an excellent way to help.

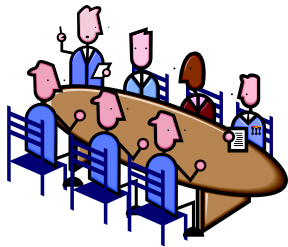
Milk (chocolate and white) is sold at the School Store for 75 cents on a daily basis.



We are providing other "Heart Healthy Snacks" at the store including rice cakes, popcorn, cheese and crackers.



Parents and guardians are once again asked to **finalize any necessary arrangements** with their children before they leave for school each day or have it written in their organizers. **Given our enrolment, the volume of requests asking us to deliver telephone messages, lunches, homework, water bottles etc. to students is often overwhelming. We ask that parents have their children ready for their day at school.** Also, please be aware that morning student supervision does not start until 8:35am. We want to ensure student safety so it is important to make arrangements for your child to be looked after in the morning before school hours. McKay does have before and after school daycare available. If you would like further information, please call Amanda at 905 380 5306. Your understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated.



PA Days  
And  
Holidays

**P.A. Days -there will be no school all day, our teachers will be involved in workshops.**

IMPORTANT DATES

September 5, 2016 .....	Labour Day
September 6, 2016 .....	First Day of School
September 16, 2016 .....	Early Release Day
October 7, 2016 .....	PD Day
October 10, 2016 .....	Thanksgiving Day
November 18, 2016 .....	PD Day
December 26, 2016 - January 6, 2017.....	Winter Break
January 9, 2017 .....	First Day of Class After Holiday
February 17, 2017 .....	PD Day
February 20, 2017 .....	Family Day
March 13-17, 2017.....	March Break
April 14, 2017.....	Good Friday
April 17, 2017.....	Easter Monday
May 19, 2017 .....	PD Day
May 22, 2017.....	Victoria Day
June 30, 2017 .....	PD Day

**Early Release Days –  
The Board has allocated the afternoon for professional development of teachers.**

**Bus Students:**

- ❖ The morning buses for **all** students will be running as usual.
- ❖ The afternoon buses will arrive at home **3 hours earlier** than usually. This means that buses will pick up the students at approximately 12:15 p.m. You can expect your child(ren) to arrive home about 3 hours early.

All **students who walk** to school will be released at 12:15 p.m.



**Terry Fox Run**

Our annual Terry Fox Run will be Thursday September 29. Pledge Forms will be coming home soon.

**Visitor Sign-In and Late Arrivals**

We ask all parents/guardians and other visitors (including co-op students, older siblings, etc.) who wish to enter the school building at any time to comply with the Ontario Ministry of Education's *Safe Schools* guidelines. To ensure student safety and to meet the Ministry's guidelines, all parents and visitors must:

1. only access the school through the front door,
2. check in at the office before going into the hallway or a classroom,
3. sign in using the "Visitor Sign In" book located in the front foyer,
4. wear a visitor's sticker during your stay with us,
5. use washrooms designated for adults, as student washrooms are for children only.

Students that arrive late are required to stop at the office to ensure that they are not marked absent by their teacher. This will avoid any unnecessary and potentially concerning phone calls home. It is our hope that the 30 seconds it takes to sign in will not inconvenience or hinder our wonderful parent volunteers and visitors to the building. We welcome your presence at McKay!

## Street Crossing

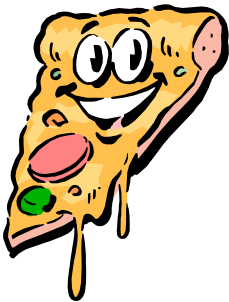
The City of Port Colborne hires Crossing Guards to ensure the safety of your children while crossing some of our busy streets coming to and from school. Please remind your children to cross with our crossing guard. We also encourage parents who pick up their children from school to use the crossing guard, especially if the busses are in the Bus Loading Zone. Students are reminded to walk their bikes and refrain from cell phone or headset use when crossing. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



## Agendas / Organizers



Student agendas or organizers are used by all the students from grades 1 to 8. We encourage students to have their agendas at school each day. Students will record assignments, tests and reminders in the agenda. Parents are asked to check and sign agendas on a daily basis and use this book to communicate with your child's teacher regarding absences or upcoming appointments. This will ensure that parents are aware of any assignments or projects that must be completed. Help your child become responsible for their own learning. If you have not done so already, please send in \$5 for the agenda.



## Weekly Pizza and Sub Days

Pizza Days will run every Wednesday and the last Friday of the month will be Sub Day



## School Store

We plan on opening our school store to the students. We are still working out a few details prior to opening.





## Ontario's HPV Immunization Program Expanded to now include Boys

For the past nine years, the HPV vaccine has been offered free of charge in Ontario schools to girls in grade 8 to help protect them from Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection and related cancers. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the program will expand to offer this cancer fighting vaccine to all **boys and girls** in grade 7. If you have a son or daughter entering grade 7 this year, they will be offered the HPV vaccine through a school-based clinic. For the majority of students, this vaccine will be given in a series of two injections, one in the fall and one in the spring.

This will be the last school year that girls in grade 8 will be offered the HPV vaccine because in future years the vaccine will only be offered in grade 7.

The HPV vaccine is considered very safe, and is highly effective.

To learn more about HPV, the HPV vaccine, and catch-up programs for older children please call: Niagara Region Public Health at 905-688-8248 ext. 7425 or visit:

[www.niagararegion.ca/health](http://www.niagararegion.ca/health)  
[www.ontario.ca/hpv](http://www.ontario.ca/hpv)

## Breakfast Club Begins at McKay!

We are very pleased to inform the McKay families our Breakfast Club is up and running thanks to our wonderful volunteers! Research shows that children are able to concentrate and learn better when they have eaten breakfast.

***We need volunteers!!! If any parents would like to assist with the Breakfast Club, set up, clean up, serving etc, between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. or any of your free time please contact the school. If you would like to make a monetary or food donation, please see the administrative staff at the school.***

Each morning McKay offers a breakfast program of nutritious foods for children before classes begin. Everyone is invited to attend. We encourage small plates then seconds if needed, so as not to waste food.

Volunteers do help with the serving from 8:30-8:50, with the cleanup from 8:50-9:30 and some come for 8am to help with set up. If you think you can spare a bit of time one morning to help out we would welcome you with open arms! Many hands make the work light!

Monetary donations are gratefully accepted.





At the DSBN, we strive to show all students how they matter: as individuals, as learners and as community members. Our students learn about the ideals of good citizenship and how they can become active participants in building a stronger community, locally and globally. We invite you to discover more about **I Matter** by visiting [dsbn.org/imatter](http://dsbn.org/imatter).

## R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Our Character Trait for September is Respect. We will be continuing to help our students learn about what Respectful behaviour looks like, sounds like and feels like.

### McKay Electronic Newsletter

In an effort to promote "Green" Initiatives, McKay posts all monthly newsletters on the McKay website during the first week of the month. The September newsletter is the only paper copy of the newsletter distributed to all McKay Families. We ask families to view the newsletter on our website or if you prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter sent home with your child or prefer to receive a copy by email, please fill out the bottom of this form and return it to the school with your child. Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send a copy of the monthly newsletter home with \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ class  
(# of copies needed \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please email a copy of the newsletter to this email address \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOOL CASH ON LINE

Please see the attached documentation on School Cash Online.

**McKay will be going 100% on line with this system effective October 1, 2016.**



Dear McKay Public School parent/guardian,

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. In order to respect your valuable time, we'd like to make it a little easier and less time consuming for you to connect with our school. This year, we are partnering with School Cash Online, a portal that will give you the ability to keep up with school events using the device most convenient for you.

Our parent community has always generously supported our school initiatives, which have included everything from field trips to athletics and fundraisers. With School Cash Online, you will be able to approve permission forms and make payments for any of these items online. Understanding that we're quickly becoming a cashless society, we know it can sometimes be a challenge to find exact change for items and then send it to school through your child's backpack. Using School Cash Online, you'll be able to use your debit, credit card or cheque to make quick and easy payments online. School Cash Online is a safe, reliable portal that will ensure the security of your information.

The system will become active on **October 1, 2016**. You will be able to gain access through the School Cash button which is on our website. When the system is online, we ask that you click on the button and follow the simple instructions to register. Registration should take less than five minutes.

We feel this is an exciting new opportunity to work more collaboratively with you. If you have any questions about this project, I would be pleased to speak with you. Please feel free to contact me at the school at (905)834-4753.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lott  
Principal

# What is a Parent Involvement Committee?

Parents can get involved in their child's education in many ways, including through school councils and Parent Involvement Committees (PIC).

The DSBN PIC is an important advisory body that operate as a direct link between parents and the board of education. Where school councils focus on the local school and community, Parent Involvement Committees (PICs) participate at the board level and focus on things that affect more than one school.



**SAVE NOVEMBER 2, 2016 ON YOUR CALENDAR!  
(PLEASE CHECK BACK MID-SEPTEMBER  
FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION)**



Mark your calendar for the 2016 DSBN Parent Involvement Conference, at Eden High School in St. Catharines. Join us for an evening of free workshops for parents of DSBN students of all ages. For more information about the event visit [www.dsbni.org/pic](http://www.dsbni.org/pic)