

McKay Public School

June 2017

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

Looking back...

It was a great year at McKay and we would like to thank the many people that make our school a great place to be. This year at McKay, staff and students worked diligently at achieving our school goal that we created back in October:

Our Vision: To develop a positive community of lifelong learners who take ownership for their actions, respect themselves and others, and show resilience when faced with challenges.

School Numeracy Goal: If we provide an engaging comprehensive math program using math tools, then students will take risks, persevere, value mistakes and engage in math talk.

School Literacy Goal: If we provide an engaging comprehensive literacy program, then students will be able to think critically and communicate effectively.

School Wellness Goal (Self-Regulation): If we provide a safe, caring, healthy and inclusive environment for all, then our community will learn, grow and achieve together.

In addition to working with our instructional coach, many staff members engaged in mathematics-based Collaborative Inquiry Learning opportunities that incorporated rich problem-based tasks and high-yield teaching strategies. This experience allowed for: co-teaching, co-planning, and debriefing opportunities, providing effective feedback, and planning appropriate next steps. We are looking forward to September, when we will use the data gathered throughout the year to determine our focus for next year.

Classes for September...

The staffing process for the next school year has started and will continue throughout the summer. Preliminary class lists are generated during this time of year. **Any class placement requests that have been submitted to the office in writing, will be considered for the fall placement.** The lists will be finalized and posted on the first day of school. As a school, we work to organize class placements to ensure that our students are placed in the best academic environment to promote student success.

Registration week is August 28- September 1; the office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The school will be closed on September 4th and will re-open for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 5th, 2017.

We are looking forward to another fantastic year at McKay next year. Thank you for your continued support. We hope that you all have a safe and wonderful summer!

Final Day Recognition Assembly

On Wednesday, June 28th at 9:00 a.m., we will recognize the Grade 8 Graduation award winners, our Primary, Junior and Intermediate individual award recipients. Parents, as always are welcome to attend.

Hooray for our Volunteers!

We appreciate all of the hard work our volunteers have done in order to make our school a wonderful and fun place to learn. We would not be able to offer many of the program opportunities if we did not have the support of our volunteers (e.g., breakfast program, parent drivers, helpers in the classrooms, coaches, and council members, just to name a few). To show appreciation for your support, we would like to invite you to join us after our awards ceremony (June 28) in the Learning Commons.

We hope to see you there!



Talent Show

The annual talent show will take place on the last day of school, Thursday, June 29. It will start just after recess (11:15 a.m.) and is scheduled to end by second break. As always, parents are invited.

Here comes the sun...

The sun is shining and it's time to get outside to play! Before you run outside, make sure you remember your 5 S's...



Slip: on some clothes that will protect your skin from the sun (loose-fitting and tightly woven are best);

Slop: on some sunscreen that is at least SPF 30 and filters UVA & UVB rays (broad-spectrum). Put sun-screen on 20 minutes BEFORE you go outside, so it can soak in. Don't forget your ears, nose and feet if you are wearing sandals! Lips should also be protected with SPF 30 lip balm;

Slap: on a wide-brimmed hat to protect your face, ears and neck;

Seek: shade when outside between 11am-4pm;

Slide: on some sunglasses that have 100% UVA & UVB filters;

Attention moms, dads, coaches and caregivers: sun damage can happen quickly, so make sure your child remembers sunscreen for lunch break, gym class, track and field and other outdoor activities.

Graduation

To our graduates, we wish you the best of luck in high school. You have made an impact on many lives at McKay School. Set goals for yourself and strive to achieve them despite potential obstacles. Every success will be yours. To all, have a great summer and remember to come back to visit in the fall.



Bell Times for 2017-2018

Entry bell: 8:50 a.m.

Classes begin: 8:55 a.m.

First Break: 10:32 -11:12 a.m.

Second Break: 12:48 -1:33 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:15 p.m.



Moving?

If you plan to move from the McKay area, please inform the office as soon as possible so that we can adjust class assignments accordingly. Thank you.

Retirement

It is with a heavy heart that we announce, that after many years in education, M. Chaffart has decided to retire. Although we are very happy for Monsieur to begin the next phase of his life, we will miss him immensely. His dedication and genuine care for our students has been so greatly appreciated.

We wish M. Chaffart, heartfelt congratulations on reaching this milestone in his career and we wish him a healthy and happy retirement! You will be missed!

Appropriate Dress Code for Warm Weather

With the warm weather here, we ask that you please review appropriate dress at school with your child. You can refer to our school Code of Conduct that is located in your child's agenda.

Extra Clothing: In an effort to limit calls home and interruptions at work, we encourage parents to consider providing your child with extra socks, pants, shorts, etc., during this time of year. Although we try to make appropriate decisions to limit the students play on the field when it is extremely wet outside, sometimes accidents happen.

In general... it is expected that clothing covers the student's front and back and has appropriate covering over the shoulders and midriff, and does not reveal undergarments. Clothing is to be of a length that is appropriate to a school environment and activity and that does not reveal undergarments in the normal range of movement (for example, pants, length of skirts and shorts).

Dressing for success means that no staff member or student should be showing undergarments at any time. If the dress attire is not appropriate then the individual will be asked to change their clothing and/or clothing will be provided by the school. If inappropriate dress remains a problem, parents will be contacted. Thank you for your cooperation.

What is Lyme disease?



Lyme disease is an infection that is caused by a bite from a blacklegged tick infected with the bacteria

that cause Lyme disease. Blacklegged ticks are very small and can range in size from a poppy seed to a small grape (when engorged). They are found on the ground, in tall grass and bushes, and they attach themselves to animals and humans passing by. The risk of getting bitten by a tick is greatest from spring to fall, but ticks can be present during mild winters.

What should I do if I spot a tick on my skin?

1. With fine tip tweezers, grasp the tick's head as close to the skin as possible
 2. Slowly pull the tick away from the skin until it releases. Do not twist or crush the tick. Ensure all the mouth parts of have been removed, otherwise the bite can become infected
 3. After removing the tick, wash the area with soap and water. Check your body thoroughly, including the groin area, armpits and hairline. It's not unusual to have more than one tick attached. Tick bites are usually painless, so they may go unnoticed. If you think the tick is blacklegged or if you cannot identify the tick, it can be submitted to Niagara Region Public Health for testing.
- All ticks must be submitted in clear, dry containers or double Ziploc bags
 - In cases where blacklegged ticks are identified, the tick will be tested for the bacteria that cause Lyme disease

There is no cost for tick identification and testing.

How do I prevent a tick bite?

1. Wear light coloured clothing to help spot ticks
2. Use insect repellents that contain DEET or Icaridin. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions
3. Do daily full body checks on yourself, your children and pets after coming in from the outdoors
4. Cut your grass and dispose of leaf litter where ticks can live
5. Outdoor workers should shower or bath within two hours of being in forested or long grass areas

How is Lyme disease spread?

Not all blacklegged ticks carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Ticks get the bacteria from feeding on infected mice, chipmunks, and birds. Cats and dogs can get Lyme disease, but cannot spread it to humans. Pets can carry infected ticks into your home so check your pets regularly. Lyme disease is not spread from person to person.



Welcome to Kindergarten

Kindergarten Registration - Spring Open House

Tuesday June 13th, 4 - 6pm

First Ride Program 5pm

If you have Junior Kindergarten aged children at home or know someone who does (who live in our school area), please ask them register now for the 2017-2018 school year. Also, please let any new families to the neighbourhood that they should register their children at our school as soon as possible.

Welcome to Grade 1 French Immersion

Open House Tuesday June 20th, 4 - 6pm

We are excited to welcome your child to our Grade 1 French Immersion Program next year. Please consider joining us for the Open House. We will have some activities, treats and information to share with our families.

Prevent Summer Slide with DreamBox Learning®

Find out what a difference 60–90 minutes a week can make for your student

Keep students engaged and learning all summer long.

Choose the online math program that's not only fun, but also proven to prepare your student for the future. DreamBox, an online math instructional program for K–8, combines a rigorous, standards-aligned curriculum with an engaging, game-like environment that continuously adapts to meet students at the right level of learning. Accessible on a variety of devices, DreamBox gives parents and guardians the ability to encourage learning at home (or on the go), while offering insights into your student's progress through an easy-to-use control panel.



Set weekly goals to maximize achievement.

A recent Harvard Study found that **for every 20 minutes a student spent on DreamBox** their Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) score **increased by 2.5 points**. We recommend students spend a minimum of 60 to 90 minutes per week on DreamBox—at school or at home—and complete 3–5 lessons per week.

To achieve their weekly lesson goals, we suggest students set up multiple sessions of DreamBox throughout the week and complete at least one or two lessons every time they log in. For tips on how to set weekly goals view the [best practice guide](#) on the DreamBox Teacher Hub website.



DreamBox Weekly Usage Recommendations: Use for 60–90 minutes. Complete 3-5 lessons.

Monitor your student's progress from home.

If your student has a DreamBox Learning account through their school, you can easily set up parent access from home so you can monitor their progress. [Click here](#) to learn how to get started.



Encourage your student to follow these basic usage guidelines to get the most out of DreamBox.

Finish lessons completely. It's okay to make mistakes along the way, just be sure to complete each lesson you start. DreamBox assesses user comprehension and adapts accordingly.

Work independently. Getting help from others can advance students beyond their current abilities and lead to frustration.

Click the Help/Hint button when needed. No other tools are needed—DreamBox lessons are designed for students to think through problems without the use of pencil and paper.



24/7 access is easy as 1-2-3!

Your child can access DreamBox from any computer—anywhere, anytime:

1. Go to <https://play.dreambox.com/login/42cv> and click on your student's school.
2. Enter your child's user name and password at the login.
3. Click on the DreamBox icon and you're ready to start learning!



Questions? Review the [DreamBox basics online](#) or email support@dreambox.com and a member of the DreamBox Client Success team will be in touch shortly.



Visit dreambox.com

NSTS Student Transportation for 2017-2018

- On **August 21, 2017** NSTS will post specific back to school transportation arrangements for each student enrolled at the school boards, including bus route numbers, stop locations and times. Eligibility information is also available through the portal and walking directions are available if your child lives within the walk zone of the school and is not eligible for transportation service.



- Please visit www.nsts.ca and sign-in to the secure parent portal to get your child's student transportation information. To sign-in to the portal you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN) which can be found on their report card. While signed-in, please subscribe to the delay and cancellation module for direct and timely emails regarding student transportation that impacts your child.

- Changes to home, pick-up or drop-off addresses must be made through your child's school. During the summer you may notify NSTS of address changes so we can make sure a bus stop is available for your child to start the school year, however, NSTS is not authorized to change student address information.

- With the availability of the secure parent portal, *NSTS will not mail student transportation notices* with the exception of Kindergarten students or new students to the system who do not have an OEN to sign-in to the portal.

- Please contact your school or NSTS if you have questions regarding your child's transportation arrangements.

- **SK to Grade 1 Eligibility:** The policy eligibility distance changes for Kindergarten to Grade 1 students (.800KM to 1.6KM). Letters are being mailed directly to the families affected from NSTS the week of May 29th and a copy of the letter will be forwarded to the school via email.

School Bus Rules

- Schools may want to use the following school bus rules for communication with students, in direct letters to bussed families or in school newsletters.

- **At the Stop** - Be 5 to 10 minutes early, and stand on the inside of the sidewalk/ shoulder away from the roadway.

- **When the Bus Arrives** - Line up in a straight line, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors to open, and never touch the outside of the bus.

- **Getting on the Bus** - Get on the bus one at a time, hold the handrail as you climb the stairs, and go directly to your seat and get settled.

- **Riding on the Bus** - Sit with your back to back of the seat and your bottom to the bottom of your seat with your school bag on your lap, and use your quiet speaking voice so that the bus driver can concentrate on driving.

- **Getting off the Bus** - Stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop, only get off the bus at your school or at your bus stop, look for your parent/ guardian before you get off the bus if that is your routine, and always tell the bus driver if you do not see your parent/ guardian at the bus stop waiting for you if that is your routine or if you missed the stop.

- **Crossing in Front of the Bus** - Watch and wait for the bus driver to signal to you to cross the road once it is safe to do so.

See you September 5, 2017!!!!