

McKay School "Roaring Lion"

320 Fielden Avenue, Port Colborne, On L3K 4T7 905-834-4753

September, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our McKay Lions are off to a great start! Everyone has returned with a renewed interest in learning and positive attitude. We are extremely pleased with the way our students have embraced our CHAMPS approach to creating a safe and civil school. All students have attended a training workshop on the first day of school presented by Mrs. Hann and everyone is doing a fantastic job following our expectations for student behaviour. Our goal is to create a co-operative, peaceful environment for learning. What is CHAMPS? Champs will help classroom teachers to overtly teach students how to behave in every school situation. CHAMPS reflects the behaviour expectations that you expect from our students. The CHAMPS acronym is used to define our expectations for a variety of activities.

C-Conversation: can students talk to each other during this activity.

H-Help: How can students get questions answered during this activity.

A-Activity: What is the task/objective of this activity? What is the expected end product?

M-Movement: Can and how should students move during this activity.

P-Participation: What does active and responsible participation look like for this activity? (Similar to A and M)

We are looking forward to greeting all McKay families at our upcoming "Open House BBQ on Thursday September, 17, 2009. Please plan to attend and dress in our school spirit colours of Green and Yellow or wear McKay Logo clothes.

Sincerely,
Mrs. R. Grenier,
Principal.



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From the Vice-Principal's Desk

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the McKay School parents and guardians. My name is Mr. Watson and I am the new vice-principal at McKay School. I am very excited about joining the excellent staff at McKay School and I look forward to spending time with the students, both in the classroom and throughout the school. One of my goals for the first few months this year is to learn the names of each McKay student and the students have been very supportive in helping me achieve this goal. I look forward to meeting our McKay Open House BBQ on Sept. 17th. Please stop by and say hello!

Mr. G. Watson



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 blanket 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. 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.

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. World Milk Day this year is on Monday, September 21th and every student is entitled to receive free milk on this day.

We are providing other "Heart Healthy Snacks" at the store including rice cakes, popcorn, orange slices, cheese and crackers, cinnamon raisin bagel and cream cheese.

OPEN HOUSE B.B.Q.

We will be holding our "Meet the Teacher" open house on Thursday, September 17th. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be available for purchase. The event starts at 5:00 p.m., ending at 6:30 p.m. Please note that we encourage all families to dress in our school spirit colours of Green and Yellow. We are looking forward to a fun, casual night where families can have dinner together, meet new friends and be introduced to the McKay Staff.



McKay's Float at the Wainfleet Fall Fair

Parade



Everyone at McKay is excited about entering the "McKay Lion's Float" in the Wainfleet Parade on Thursday, September 24th. This year's theme is pumpkins and we will be using our creativity to put together another winning float. Please plan to visit us at the fair at 5:00pm to help decorate the float and we will be ready to compete at 6:00. Everyone will be excited to participate in this fun event so start planning to look like a pumpkin (dress in orange) that night.

If you attended last year you'll remember how much fun it was!. We hope to see you there!

Reminder

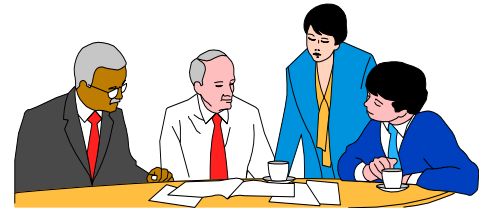
Parents and guardians are once again asked to finalize any necessary arrangements with their children before they leave for school each day. Given our enrolment, the volume of requests asking us to deliver telephone messages to students is often overwhelming. Your understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Professional Development Days and Early Release Days

There will be no school on - P.A. Days - Our teachers will be involved in workshops.

- ◆ October 9, 2009
- ◆ November 13, 2009
- ◆ December 4, 2008 - P.M.
- ◆ April 21, 2010 - P.M.



The following are two Early Release Days - **Friday, September 25, 2008** and **Friday, February 12, 2010**. The Board has allocated the afternoon for professional development of teachers within the school.

The morning buses (8:30 a.m.) for **all** students (including JK and SK), will be running as usual. However, the 11:20 a.m. kindergarten bus will not be running. Children that normally take this bus at 11:20 a.m. can either stay at home for the morning or the parents will need to provide transportation home. Morning kindergarten children are released at 11:20 a.m. There will be no afternoon kindergarten class.

Students that walk to school will be released at 12:00 p.m. at the beginning of period 4.

The buses for the students who normally take the bus will arrive 3 hours earlier than normal. 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. Students waiting for their buses may eat their lunch as normal and they will be supervised until the buses arrive.

School Council

Everyone is invited and encouraged to get involved at McKay! Please plan to attend our first School Advisory Council meeting of the year it will be held on **Tuesday, September 15 at 6:15 p.m.** in room 5. Everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Magazine Fund Raising Campaign

It's that time of year again, time to renew your magazine subscriptions. Watch for information coming home at the end of the month.

Terry Fox Run

We will be participating in the Terry Fox Run again this year. Primaries will be participating on Thursday September 17, 2009 in the afternoon. Junior and Intermediate classes will be participating Friday September 18, 2009 in the morning..

Visitors to the School

Just a reminder to always check in at the office when you enter the school. Parents should be entering the school through the front doors and signing in and out at the office if you are picking up your child due to illness or for any other reason during the school day. It is for the safety of all students that we encourage entering the school to sign in at the office. At the end of the day, if parents wish to pick up their child, we ask that you wait outside your child's exit door and not in the hallway near the classroom. The hallways are narrow and the teachers are trying to get all of the students ready to go home with jackets and backpacks (and soon boots). We ask that buggies and wagons remain outside for safety reasons. We thank you for your cooperation in looking out for the safety of all our children.

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 Mrs. Brown and Mr. Konig. 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 cellphone or headset use when crossing. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Agendas / Organizers

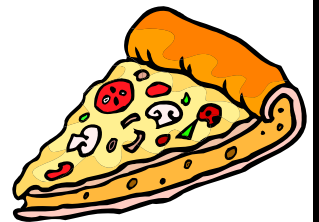
Student agendas or organizers are used by all the students from grades 1 to 8. We encourage students to have their agendas at school each day. Students will record assignments, tests and reminders in the agenda. Parents are asked to check and sign agendas on a daily basis. This will ensure that parents are aware of any assignments or projects that must be completed. Please help your child become responsible for their own learning.

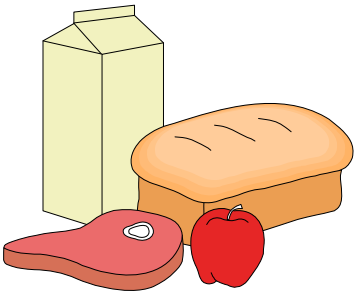
Library Volunteers

If you are interested in helping in our school library a few days a week, please contact Mr. Watson 905-834-4753

Weekly Pizza Days

Every Wednesday, McKay students can order pizza at \$1.00 a slice. Orders are taken the morning (9:00 a.m.) of each pizza day. We ask students to help support this Intermediate Division fundraiser. Grade 7 and 8 student and teachers distribute the pizzas to the classrooms upon delivery. Please note: On Early Release Days we still sell pizza to our lunch students.





Breakfast Club Begins at McKay!

We are very pleased to inform the McKay families that beginning **Monday, September 14th** students will be offered breakfast. Research shows that children are able to concentrate and learn better when they have eaten breakfast. Mrs. Gagnon, our Educational Assistant, along with our other wonderful volunteers will set up and serve the students. Healthy breakfast foods will be available.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast Wraps Home-baked muffins Fresh Fruit Orange Juice or Milk	Bowl of cereal Home-baked muffins Cucumber and carrot veggie bowl Orange juice or Milk	Ham, Cheese and cracker plate Home-baked muffins Fresh fruit Orange juice or Milk	Boiled eggs toast or bagels Home-baked muffins Cucumber and carrot veggie bowl Fresh fruit Orange juice or Milk	French toast or Pancakes Home-baked muffins Fresh Fruit Orange Juice or Milk

If any parents would like to assist with the Breakfast Club (set up, clean up, serving) by volunteering any of your free time or if you would like to make a monetary/food donation, please call the school.

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

Our Character Trait for September is Respect. Take this short self evaluation and decide for yourself if you are a "respectable person". We will be focussing on helping our students learn about what Rerspectful behaviour looks like, sounds like and feels like. Our September Recognition Assembly will be on September 30, 2009 at 2:25.

Are you a Respectful Person?		
True	False	
		I treat other people the way I want to be treated.
		I am considerate of other people.
		I treat people with civility, courtesy and dignity.
		I accept personal differences.
		I work to solve problems without violence.
		I never intentionally ridicule, embarrass or hurt others.

September, 2009 "Roaring Lion" Mystery Draw

() Yes, I have received and read the September, 2009 "Roaring Lion" newsletter.

Child's Name _____ Gr. _____ Room # _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

(If you have more than one child attending McKay School, please make a facsimile of this ballot for each student and return to McKay School.)

Skill Testing Question (answer found in this newsletter). The OPEN HOUSE B.B.Q. is on:

Due to office by Friday, September 18, 2009.