



# Morna Heights School

September



## Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school. It's hard to believe summer is over and we are starting another school year! We like to take the time to welcome back familiar faces and new staff as well. Our staff this year is as follows:

Principal	Mrs. Gail Crilley
Secretary	Mrs. Brenda Johnson
Custodian	Mr. Carl LaViolette
KG	Mr. Jay Coughlan/Mrs. Natasha Bennett
Gr. 1	Mrs. Leslie Burgess
Gr. 2	Mrs. Kathy Walsh
Gr. 3/4	Mr. Steve Clark
Gr. 4/5	Mrs. Megan Smith
Resource	Mrs. Lynn Hayes
Phys Ed	Mr. Steve Clark/Mrs. Bevin Benjamin
Music	Mrs. Lisa McLaggan
Educational Assistants:	Mrs. Karen Stone
	Miss Alison Watts
	TBA



Keep up to date on all Morna Heights' activities using the following websites:

Home - go to

<http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/district8/schools/Morna%20Heights%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

Or find us listed on the ASD-S website under schools

Literacy - [www.mornaliteracy.weebly.com](http://www.mornaliteracy.weebly.com)

## Important Information!!!



For the safety of our students we are reminding parents and guardians that when they are dropping off their child/children to please drop them off on Chalmers Drive - just in front of the school. (This avoids you from entering the school yard where the buses are arriving.) If you have to come into the school to pick up a child or to drop something off - please park your car in the designated parking area and come into the school office. **Also, a reminder that the speed limit in the school area is only 30 km and parents should slow down even more when approaching the school yard.**

## Dismissal



Bus students will line up and leave the school. After the bus lines have left, walking students as well as students being picked up will leave their classes and meet parents at the end of the hall. Once buses have left the yard, students may leave.

We are also asking parents who are waiting for their children to sit on the yellow bench or chairs provided. This will enable students/staff to pass through the hall easily.

As mentioned, dismissal times are 2:15 and 3:15. Please try to avoid picking up your child before this time as curriculum is still being taught.

We understand there are occasions where appointments may be necessary. Please send a written note to make teachers aware of the appointment when they are required to leave early.

## Reminders



- All visitors to the school **must** sign in at the Office.
- **Morna Heights School is a "Scent Free" school.**
- **Morna Heights School is a "Nut Free" school.**
- Children are not permitted to bring electronic devices of any kind to school.
- Please sign out your child if you are taking them out of the school during regular school hours, or if you are picking them up at the end of the day. (A written note is helpful to teachers so that they are aware.)
- Morning supervision begins at 8:15. Please **do not** drop your child off before this time. It is important that you meet your child at the bus stop. The bus driver will not let students off unless there is an adult to accept them.

## Open House and Meet the Teacher



On September 24, 2014 from 6:30 - 8:00, we would like to invite parents and students to come to meet the teachers of Morna Heights School. The meet and greet will begin at 6:30 in the gym and then you will have a chance to spend time in your child's classroom. Refreshments will be served!!

## PSSC Election



The PSSC Election will also be held on September 24, 2014 during our Open House. The PSSC's (Parent School Support Committee) main function is to act as an advisory body with respect to policy issues, as well as assisting in the development/implementation of the School Improvement Plan. If you are interested in being a member, please plan to attend. Further information is available by calling the school.

## Busing



Thank you to all parents for appreciating the District 8 bus policy. This policy ensures that all children have 1 designated bus stop in the morning and one for after school. This will assist bus drivers and school personnel in ensuring that all children are delivered to the proper location safely.

\*Any child who requires an alternate site designated (other than home) must complete the alternate transportation form. This form **MUST** be completed each school year.

**Parents should be meeting their child at the bus stop. The bus driver will not let students off unless there is an adult to accept them.**

## School Pictures



School Pictures will be taken of your child on Tuesday, October 7th. Once again "Life Touch" will be taking our student's photos.

## Terry Fox Walk



On September 24, 2014 students will be participating in the Terry Fox Walk. We will leave the school and walk the block around our school. We will be collecting a small donation (\$1.00 or \$2.00) to support cancer research.

## Cross Country Dates



Thursday, September 18  
Thursday, September 25  
Thursday, Oct 2 (rain)  
Wednesday, October 8

Fisher Lakes 3:35 pm  
Fisher Lakes 3:45 pm  
Riverview Park 3:45pm

*Permission slips will be sent home for interested students.*

## Criminal Record Check



It is **mandatory** that all of our volunteers have a criminal record check completed as well as policy 701 if you are planning to volunteer in any capacity. Both forms are available at the office.

Please note - If you submitted a criminal record check to the school last year, you will not be required to send in another as long as you have remained in our school community. Please call the school to confirm we have your copy on file. We appreciate your co-operation and understanding.

## Permission Slips



Your child will be taking home a general permission slip which gives them permission to go on walks in the community with their class. (No busing required.) Please sign and return this form asap. This form will be kept on file for the school year 2014-2015.

When your child has the opportunity to take part in a class trip or go on a special event, another permission slip will be sent home with details for you to sign. (Busing required.)

## Wits Program

Morna Heights will be introducing the WITS anti-bullying program this year. Here is an article to explain some of the concepts that will be covered:

## WITS FAQ

### 1. What are the WITS Programs?

The WITS Programs bring together schools, families and communities to create responsive environments that help children deal with bullying and peer conflict. WITS has two parts:

1. WITS Primary Program – Teaches Kindergarten to Grade 3 children to **W**alk away, **I**gnore, **T**alk it out and **S**eek help when faced with peer conflict. The acronym also provides a common language that children and the adults around them can use to talk about and respond to problems.
2. WITS LEADS Program – A more grown-up program designed for Grades 4-6 students, which teaches more complex problem-solving strategies: **L**ook and listen, **E**xplore points of view, **A**ct, **D**id it work? and **S**eek help. LEADS trains students to become WITS Leaders who can help younger children with their problems.

Teachers reinforce the programs by reading popular children's books, which emphasize WITS and LEADS messages, to their students. We also encourage students to use their WITS and LEADS skills to deal with problems and hope you will too!

*Want to know more? Explore the WITS website at [www.witsprogram.ca](http://www.witsprogram.ca).*

### 2. How can I help my child use WITS to solve problems?

Your child can likely recite the WITS acronym but may need help putting it in action. Use the tips below with your child to explore how WITS can help with peer conflict problems.

- **W**alk away: Role-play walking away from the situation. Ask: What would happen if you walked away? Would it solve the problem? If not, try another strategy.
- **I**gnore: Discuss ways to ignore, like leaving the situation or withdrawing eye contact. Ask: What would happen if you ignored? Would it solve the problem? If not, try another strategy.
- **T**alk it out: Suggest statements to use to talk it out with the person bothering him or her. Sometimes saying "Stop" is enough. Maybe a joke would help. Ask: What would happen if you talked it out? Would it solve the problem? If not, try another strategy.
- **S**eek help: Suggest other adults your child could ask for help, like a teacher. Ask: What would happen if you asked another adult for help? Would it solve the problem? If not, who else could you seek help from?

*Want to know more? Explore the Using WITS with Your Child section of the WITS website at [www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/](http://www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/).*

### **3. How can I get my child talking about peer conflict and bullying?**

When it comes to talking to your child about peer conflict and bullying, once is not enough. Children need multiple opportunities to learn information and apply it in their lives. So how do you start the conversation?

- Children may feel their situation is unique and that you wouldn't understand. Share a story about how you were teased or left out as a child. What did you do? Did it work? Who helped you?
- Pick a book from the WITS book list at [www.witsprogram.ca/schools/book-lists/](http://www.witsprogram.ca/schools/book-lists/), read it with your child and start a discussion. What WITS or LEADS strategies did the characters use? Did the book remind you of anything similar that has happened in real life?

Sometimes the best way to get your child talking is through teachable moments. When watching TV or movies, talk about characters' actions and how they resolved conflicts. When your child experiences conflict with a sibling or a friend, ask which WITS strategies might help.

*Want to know more? Explore the Using WITS with Your Child section of the WITS website at [www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/](http://www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/).*

### **4. How can I support WITS at home?**

The WITS Programs are designed to reach beyond schools to protect children from peer victimization wherever they are. Parents play a critical role by teaching children to use their WITS in a variety of situations. So what can you do to support WITS at home?

- Use WITS and LEADS to help your child solve conflicts and deal with your own. Use the language when watching TV or movies to talk about how characters handle problems.
- Talk about WITS reminder gifts. Through WITS, community leaders visit classrooms and drop off gifts, such as bookmarks, pencils and posters. When your child brings home these gifts, ask: Who gave you this? What did the visitor talk about?
- Praise your child when you observe him or her using WITS or LEADS strategies. Ask: How did you decide which strategy to use? How did you feel when it worked?

*Want to know more? Explore the Using WITS with Your Child section of the WITS website at [www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/](http://www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/).*