

# Morna Heights School

September Newsletter 2012



## 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	Ms. Matthews
Secretary	Mrs. Brenda Johnson
Custodian	Mr. Carl LaViolette
KG	Ms. Natasha Robichaud
Gr. 1	Mrs. Leslie Burgess
Gr. 2	Mrs. Michelle Ruigrok
Gr. 3	Mrs. Kathy Walsh
Gr. 4	Mr. Steve Clark
Gr. 5	Mrs. Jennifer Keilty
Resource	Mr. Conan Murphy
Phys Ed	Mrs. Bevin Benjamin/Mrs. Sara Kalemkarian
Music	Mrs. Kathy Molloy
Educational Assistants:	Mrs. Karen Stone
	Mrs. Sharon Langis

## 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 Changes



Due to the confusion in the main hall at dismissal time, we have made a few changes to our routine at 2:15 and 3:15. 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 BBQ



On Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 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 6:00 in the gym and then you will have a chance to spend time in your child's classroom. A BBQ will follow outside, weather permitting.

## PSSC Election



The PSSC Election will also be held on Monday, September 17th 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.

## Bussing



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 previously sent home.

**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 Monday, October 15th beginning at 10::00 in the morning.

## Playground



As many of you are aware we have installed the last section of our new playground. The students enjoy playing on the new equipment and are aware of our safety rules. Thank you to the Home & School for their dedication and work on this enormous project!!

## Terry Fox Walk



On Thursday, September 27th 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.

## Hot Lunch



Our Hot Lunch Program is run by our Home & School. The program will begin as soon as arrangements are made.

## Cross Country Dates



Thursday, Sept. 20th  
Thursday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Rain Date

Fisher Lakes 3:30 pm  
Fisher Lakes 3:30 pm  
Fisher Lakes 3:30 pm  
Riverview Park 3:30 pm  
Oct. 11th

## Birthday Invitations



In the spirit of inclusion where all students feel comfortable in our school - we are asking parents to reconsider distributing birthday/party invitations at the school. However, we will permit invitations to be passes out by the classroom teacher as long as everyone in the class is invited to the event.

## Criminal Record Check



It is **mandatory** that all of our volunteers have a criminal record check completed each year as well as policy 701. We encourage that a criminal record check is completed at the beginning of each year 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 2012-2013.

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.)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year 2012-13! This year there are changes in the structure and organization of our School District. In New Brunswick, the number of Anglophone School Districts has gone from nine to four as of July 1, 2012. District 6 (Sussex Corner to Rothesay), District 8 (Saint John, St. Martin's, Grand Bay/Westfield) and District 10 (St. George, St. Stephen and the Fundy Isles) are now the Anglophone South School District.

Our new District has close to 25 000 K-12 students in 74 schools and four high school alternate education centres. We have a few very large schools with over one thousand students each and some schools with less than one hundred students. It is important to assure you that these changes have all been at the District level and not at individual schools – school zones remain the same and there have been no major changes to our bus routes.

The Office of the Superintendent is located in Saint John, on 490 Woodward Avenue and attached to Millidgeville North School. The Superintendent, Directors (Human Resources, Finance and Administration, Curriculum and Instruction, and Education Support Services), and managers (transportation, budget and accounting, facilities), all who have responsibilities for the District, are located in Millidgeville.

We have three local Education Centres with staff who will attend to local issues and support Principals and teachers in each of the three geographical areas. Each Centre is led by a Senior Education Officer. In Saint John, the Education Centre is located within the Office of the Superintendent (former School District 8 Office) and the Senior Education Officer is Debbie Thomas. The Education Centre for the St. Stephen area is located in the former School District 10 Office and attached to St. Stephen Middle School on School Street and the Senior Education Officer is Jenny MacDougall. The Hampton Education Centre for now is located in the former School District 6 Office on 70B Hampton Road but later this year will be moving to the town of Hampton. Paul Smith is the Senior Education Officer for schools in the Sussex to Kennebecasis Valley areas.

Within the Education Centre there is a staff person for human resources, for facilities and transportation, and there is a payroll team. Other staff directly support schools in the Centre - e.g. technicians who support schools with IT needs, community school coordinators, Subject Coordinators who work with teachers and Principals in literacy, numeracy, science, health and physical education, fine arts and

other areas of curriculum and education support services staff such as psychologists, autism resource teachers, and literacy and numeracy leads and coaches for teachers. These staff members work in schools daily. Each Education Centre will have an Administrative Services Coordinator/Clerk(s) who will support Principals in completing non-education administrative tasks.

We have one District Education Council (DEC) with twelve councilors from Sussex to Grand Manan, each from a sub-district. We have several former DEC members who re-offered last May in the municipal elections for Anglophone South School District. Our Chair is Rob Fowler from Grand Bay and our Vice-Chair is Roger Nesbitt from Quispamsis. The DEC meets monthly and meetings will move around the District with the schedule on the website. Each school in September will be having an Open House/Parent School Support Committee evening, and I would encourage you to attend and considering volunteering your time and talent for your PSSC.

We are in the process of building a new website for Anglophone South School District [www.asd-s.nbed.nb.ca](http://www.asd-s.nbed.nb.ca) and to get through the first few months, the former School District 6, 8, and 10 websites are up and running. Communication is important and we know that families rely more and more each year on school and District websites for information.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all students and families for the new school year, and to wish you a safe and happy year! I encourage you to get involved in your school community – we are very fortunate to be rich in volunteers and partners, and it is amazing what can happen! There are many ways to support your school.



Zoë Watson, Superintendent  
Anglophone South School District