**Welcome Back Clippers!**

**September 5, 2012**

**Dear Parent/Guardian**

It's hard to believe but it's that time of the year again - the beginning of a new school year. Welcome back! Returning to school is a very exciting time for students and parents but, it is also an adjustment period returning to the daily demands of school. As parents, you are extremely important in your child’s education. We need to work in collaboration to ensure your child meets and exceeds their learning goals.

Over the next six weeks, we will be working to establish routines, procedures, and structures within our school. We want to create a positive learning environment, in which all students will meet with success. There are a few simple things you can do to help us set your child up for success:-

* Make sure your child gets a good night sleep.
* Try to avoid foods high in sugar and dyes which may cause hyperactivity
* Get your child to school on time – when your children arrive late for school, they miss instructional time and they also get stressed from entering the classroom late.
* Ask your child about his/her school day and get him/her to share what they learned - parents’ interest in their children’s education is a great motivator.
* Don’t be afraid to ask for help! We are here to work with you and your child! We understand that some of the curriculum is at times confusing or difficult - we are here to help you understand!
* Share information that could be useful in planning for your child such as medical diagnosis, learning issues, social issues– anything that could impact on your child’s performance at school. It makes it difficult to set a child up for success, if we are missing pieces of the puzzle.
* If you have any concerns, please contact the school. We are a team working together to educate your child!

**Please note:** we welcome all parents in our school; however, we do have safety procedures to follow. We ask that all parents sign in at the office if you are going to visit a teacher or collect your child. We do not allow parents to walk throughout the building without signing into the office for security purposes - we want to keep your children safe! We do welcome parents to sit in the lobby while you wait for your child at the end of the school day.

Teachers are willing to meet with parents but, it is difficult at times when parents drop-in unexpected. We certainly appreciate that sometimes parents need to stop by due to concerns that arise. But, to better service you and give you the proper attention/time to address your issues/concerns, it is helpful to schedule a meeting time with the teacher. By scheduling a meeting time, the teacher can set a time up in the day without interruptions to meet with you.

If you are interested in volunteering in the school, you can contact Katie Heffernan our Community Coordinator. Parents can drop by Tuesday and Thursday mornings or reach her at 721-0834.

**Closed Campus Lunch**

 This school year, we will be having a closed campus lunch. All students will remain on-site during the lunch hour. Students will only be allowed to leave the campus if their parent/guardian picks them up.

Lunch will be done in shifts in the gymnasium. Students have the option to bring a lunch or enjoy a free lunch from Inner City Youth Ministry. We ask all parents to sign the lunch registration form being sent home from Chicken Noodle to allow your child to enjoy the option to participate. I would like to thank Donnie Snook and the volunteers of ICYM for bringing lunch on-site!

**Why a Closed Campus Lunch?**

 We moved to a condensed lunch hour and closed campus lunch to allow longer instructional time in the morning which is the optimal time to learn; thereby, to maximize student learning. In closing our campus, we hope to decrease afternoon attendance problems that emerge in the upper grades and behavioral issues. Overall, we want to ensure your child has a positive experience at school and he/she is successful in their learning.

**Afterschool programming**

**Inner City Youth Ministry** will start their afterschool program Thursday Sept 6th. This program is for students in K-2 and it runs from 1:30-2:30 pm, Monday – Thursday. Students must be registered for this program.

**The South End Community (Boys and Girls Club)** will be offering an after school program starting Thursday Sept. 6th from 2:30 – 5pm Monday – Thursday and 1:30-5pm on Friday. Registrations forms must be completed and an open house will be held Wednesday evening Sept. 5th to register your child from 2:30-5 pm

 Coming Soon . . .

**Breakfast Program** - we hope to have Breakfast club up and running in a few weeks. We are currently in the midst of organizing volunteers to run the program.

**Irving Oil Tutoring** will be starting in October. Students from grades 1-6 will be participating in the program. We appreciate the dedication of the Irving Oil employees for taking their time each week to invest in our students! This year, there will be over 200 Irving tutors in our building supporting our students in Literacy!

**Sistema** – students that applied for Sistema will be informed soon. Last year, our school had 7 students participate after school Monday to Friday in this musical enrichment program. This year, we are pleased to that Sistema will be extending the number of spots to our school and close to 30 students will be participating.

**Enrichment –** Our Community Coordinator, Katie Heffernan, is in the process of organizing various enrichment opportunities for our students. She is working in collaboration with ICYM, Boys & Girls Club, Early Learning Centre and various community partners. Last year, we had numerous activities that went on such as yoga, zumba, art, babysitting course, cooking, etc. Stay tuned for more information!

 Positive Learning Environment & Bullying

This school year, we will once again be focusing our efforts on creating a positive and safe learning environment for your child. This year, some of our school wide initiatives to support this area will include:-

* Community Building (tribes) within classrooms
* School-wide monthly tribes activities
* Developing character and leadership skill (The Leader in Me)
* Enrichment opportunities
* Closed Campus Lunch
* Collaborating with our Inner City, Boys and Girls Club, ELC & other groups to ensure we all send forth the same message in regards to positive behavior.

**The Four Tribe Agreements**



**Upcoming Events**

* **Open House and PSSC Elections – Monday, September 17th @ 6:30-8pm.**
* **Bullying Awareness Week September 24th**

 **New School Hours:**

 **8:10am - duty teacher in yard**

**8:20am – students enter from school yard**

**8:30am – all students begin instructional day**

**10:15-10:30am –K-2 recess**

**10:30-10:45am - 3-5 Recess**

**12:00-12:30 Lunch K-3 & 12:15-12:45 Lunch 4-8 (closed campus lunch)**

**1:30pm dismal for K-2, 2:30pm dismal for 3-5, & 2:45pm for middle**