



September 2015

# Mariposa Elementary School Newsletter

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2015-16 learning year at Mariposa Elementary School: *A Great Place to Learn*. We hope all our students and families enjoyed their time together during the summer and are relaxed, recharged and ready to learn. A big welcome to all our new students and families.

We have had some staffing changes over the summer months. We welcome back Mrs. MacEachern to our school as Vice Principal. She will be working full time at Mariposa ES. We are very happy to welcome Mrs. Jameson as Head Secretary! Mr. Dowell has joined our team after a number of years at Central Senior Elementary. Welcome Mr. Dowell, Mrs. Gilpin has returned to teach in a part time resource role. We are pleased to have Mrs. Metcalfe, Mrs. Skrabek and Ms. Zimmermann back from maternity leave. Ms. deKoning is now part of our hard working educational assistant team. Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Sornberger are district staff who will be working with our staff to continue our school improvement work.

Summer improvements to our building have included painting for part of the second floor, resurfacing of part of our parking lot and driveway and a renovation to our staffroom.

We would like to thank our dedicated custodial staff, Mr. Walden, Mr. Smith and Mr. Landry for ensuring that our building was in perfect shape to start the school year. The behind-the-scenes work they do is greatly appreciated.

Although your child's teacher should be your first point of contact, feel free to call me at the school or drop in to see me if you think there is anything I can help you with.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

We would like to invite everyone to an Information "Meet and Greet Evening" in the library on Monday, September 21st from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Please join us and find out how you can get involved with the school and assist in making your child/ren's education more enjoyable. More information is going home regarding School Council Declaration/Nomination Forms. Look forward to seeing you there!

## SAFE ARRIVAL Telephone: 705-953-9740

If your child is going to be away, please call the school and advise us of the child's name, teacher and reason for absence. We have an answering machine which is on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your calls are extremely helpful to our staff as it saves them tracking where your child is. We appreciate your co-operation in keeping Mariposa students safe.

## PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF STUDENTS

Please sign your child in at the office if you are bringing him/her in late. If you need to come into the school, please park in a designated spot or at the south end of the property so that school buses have enough room to maneuver safely. If you are picking your child up, please ask for your child at the office and remember to sign your child out. Following the proper procedures will allow us to do everything possible to ensure the safety of our children and minimize disruptions to classes near the end of the school day.

## SCHOOL LUNCH AND DRINK PROGRAMS

Order forms will be sent home with options for lunch and drinks at school. They will be due on Sept 14th, with the lunch and drink program beginning Sept. 21st. More information will be included with the forms.

755 Eldon Rd., RR#2

Oakwood, ON K0M 2M0

705-953-9740

705-953-9860 (fax)

Principal: Steven Roffe

Vice Principal: Melissa MacEachern

Trustee: Don Alton



### HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Many of our parents and students use email, text messaging, and social media every day. Our schools and teachers are able to communicate with parents and/or students by phone, email, text message, and social media.

Here are some examples of what our communications system "SchoolConnects" will do:

- Schools are able to send email messages to parents about such things as school events, a school council parent meeting, or the school newsletter;
- A text message may be sent to parents to remind them about parent information evenings;
- Schools can send a message regarding snow days;
- Teachers have the option to send text messages to students reminding them of upcoming tests, or email regarding assignment due dates;
- Teachers can also send similar messages about tests and assignments to parents;
- School Principals can send voice messages and text messages to parents of students on a field trip notifying them of a delayed return time; and
- The school board can send a message to all parents about an emergency such as a lockdown or a school evacuation.

To ensure this process is successful, we ask that you keep your contact information updated at your school as soon as possible after changing. Look for more information coming home this week.

### AGENDAS

As mentioned above, our school board is moving more and more towards electronic communication with parents. There are many advantages to electronic forms of communication. It can be instant, more accessible on mobile devices and be more environmentally friendly. This year, you will be receiving a school board calendar and school information booklet for each family. Teachers will use a variety of communication tools such as communication books, email, texts and class websites to keep you informed. We will not be sending home agendas. This usually costs each student \$6.00. We are hoping that this savings helps families at this costly "return to school" time. As each agenda costs substantially more than \$6.00, this translates into savings for the school as well.

### MONEY COLLECTION ENVELOPES

We will be providing school envelopes for your convenience and easy organization. The cost for the year's supply of envelopes is **\$2.00**. Please send the funds in with your child to his/her teacher. When using the envelopes, please use a separate envelope for each child and payment.

### ANAPHYLAXIS (LIFE THREATENING FOOD AND SCENTS ALLERGIES)

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can be fatal. It can be caused by an allergy to popcorn, tree nuts, peanuts, peanut butter and products using peanut oil. It can also be caused by strong scents. As we have a number of children and staff in the school with this condition **we ask that you do not send any products containing nuts, nut products or popcorn to the school**. Please avoid heavily scented products such as Axe. **This is just as important on our school buses**. We appreciate your help in keeping everyone at Mariposa safe.

In addition to allergies already existing in the school, we now need to avoid oranges. **Please do not send oranges to school in lunches**.

### HEAD CHECKS

As per TLDSB guidelines, our regular head checks will continue this fall but we are in need of volunteers. If you are able to help, please call the office at 705-953-9740. We also ask that you continue to check your child/ren at home on a regular basis.

### POP TABS

Please keep collecting those pop tabs for this year.

### TERRY FOX RUN

Mariposa's annual Terry Fox Run will be held on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. Once again, students from grades 4 – 8 will be given the chance to run along the trail. Pledge forms will be sent home and students are encouraged to raise money for cancer research. All monies must be returned to the school no later than Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering or participating in this event, please contact the school. Our school's challenge will be to reach \$5000. Since we began the Terry Fox Run in 2002, Mariposa has raised over \$75 000!

### IMMUNIZATION

By law, parents of children attending school in Ontario **MUST** provide either a record of the child's immunization or a valid exemption to the Health Unit. Please notify the Health Unit of updates. If your child cannot be immunized call the Health Unit for advice, 905-885-9100 extension 224 or 253 or toll free at 1-866-888-4577.

### GRADE 7 HEPATITIS B IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AND HPV FOR GRADE 8 GIRLS

The Health Unit will offer the Hepatitis B vaccine to all Grade 7 students on Oct. 23, consent forms have been sent home, please return to the school as soon as possible.

Also, HPV for Grade 8 girls will be offered that day.



Trillium Lakelands District School Board has launched a new eflyer distribution system called Peachjar. We are the first school board in Canada to adopt this new and exciting program, which allows approved community flyers to be posted online and emailed directly to parent's inboxes. Each school has its own Peachjar webpage that parents can view by clicking on the Peachjar button on the school website homepage. It's easy to find, view, and share eflyers. They're a great way to pass information along to family and friends – and are shareable via social media! This system will help our schools reduce paper amounts, reduce copy costs, and relieve a significant administrative burden from our teachers, office staff, and volunteers.

Parents, please visit [www.Peachjar.com](http://www.Peachjar.com) to register. This system is used exclusively for distribution of school-approved flyers. You even have the option to have these eflyers delivered right to your inbox! Your email address will never be shared or used for any other purpose, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

If you have children in multiple schools, you can add more schools by logging in, selecting "My Account", then "User Settings" and "Add School".

To view school-approved eflyers, simply click the Peachjar button on your school's website homepage.

This "green" initiative will provide parents with better access to information about school programs, activities, and events.