



# Applewood

SEPTEMBER 2019

## From the office...

Applewood Public School  
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St. Catharines, ON  
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905-684-4359  
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### UP COMING EVENTS

- Sept. 13: Terry Fox Run Assembly & Early Release Day
- Sept. 18: Meet the Teacher 5-6:30 pm
- Sept. 25: Picture Day
- Sept. 26: Safety Village Trip
- Sept. 27: Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 30: Celebration Assembly

**FRI. SEPT. 13th IS AN EARLY RELEASE DAY.** Walking students will be dismissed at 11:55 am and bus students will be picked up 3 hours earlier than usual. If school re-organization is necessary due to large or small class sizes it will happen on this day. If your child is affected by the re-organization you will be contacted by phone.

Welcome back to all our of returning families and a warm welcome to those who are new to Applewood! I hope you had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the new school year as much as we are!

My name is Mrs. Kate Fish and I am the Principal at Applewood, this year. I am very excited to be starting my career as a Principal here. For years, I have heard many wonderful things about the Applewood students, staff, and community, and I look forward to getting to know all of you! I have been an educator with the DSBN for fifteen years. I started my career at Maywood, a small school in St. Catharines, and I am excited to be returning to your city! At James Morden School in Niagara Falls, I taught almost every grade from Kindergarten to Grade 8 (including three years in Special Education) and then spent three years there as the Vice Principal. Following that, I spent two years as a Vice Principal at Forestview School (also in Niagara Falls). This year, I will be teaching a number of classes and directing the choir in addition to my Administrative responsibilities...and I can't wait! In my personal life, I am a mother and wife, an active and avid outdoorsperson, a reader and book club member, a dog owner, and an advocate for a variety of community agencies. I love working with children and the dedicated people who teach them. You put your children in our hands for their education and safe-keeping during the school day and I take that responsibility very seriously. Nothing gives me greater joy than witnessing a child working towards their goals in the classroom, on the court, in the lab, on the playground, with a friend, a teacher, a mentor...and the positive impact it has on the child, as well as, the people around them. I believe very strongly in a positive relationship between school and home...children are happier and more successful when we all work together. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please drop by the office, call (905-684-4359 ext. 1) or email (kate.fish@dsbn.org).

A huge thank you is owed to Mrs. Robson and Mr. Winger for the exceptional job they did this summer on preparing the school for September. In addition to the many jobs they regularly do in the summer, there were a great many projects that were undertaken that they supported wholeheartedly - always with energy and a smile. We are very fortunate to be the recipients of their hard work and dedication!

Additionally, thank you to all of the teaching and support staff that spent countless hours at school during the hot summer months getting their classrooms ready for the new year. Each room has its own special personality...the students are lucky to have such a wonderful environment to come to every day!

We have a few new faces in the school, this year...Mrs. Flora is our new Administrative Assistant, Ms. Louwerse is teaching one of the grade 5/6 classes and Mr. Hiller is teaching the other. As well, we have a new DECE, Mrs. Kelly Elliot and EA, Ms. McLaughlin. Please join me in welcoming them to the Gator Family! Otherwise, you'll see many familiar faces in the building...although one has a new name! Congratulations to Mrs. McPherson (formerly Ms. Wormald), our FSL teacher and Librarian, on her marriage in August! There have been some teaching assignment changes (listed on the last page) for the 2019-2020 school year. Please note, these assignments are always subject to change based on changes in enrollment. If any changes are to occur, they will happen on September 13th (the Early Release Day) and you will be informed ahead of time if your child will be affected by the change.

Please read through the information included in the monthly newsletter and calendar and feel free to contact the office if you have any questions. Both will be emailed on or before the first school day of each month. It will also be posted on our school website (www.applewood.dsb.org) under 'Calendar'.

We will be using School Cash Online for all payments and permission forms, this year. Please register online on our website (a credit card in not required). As well, please ensure you register for School Messenger to report student absences. Directions are also on the website. If you require assistance registering, please contact the office and we will gladly help you!

This school year promises to be a great one...there are lots of exciting things happening at Applewood and we can't wait for you to be a part of it!

See you later, Alligators!

Mrs. Fish

## ALLERGIES- NUTS & PUMPKINS

As of September 2019 we are a NUT AND PUMPKIN FREE SCHOOL.

# OFFICE INFORMATION

## BUSING

For transportation information please visit the Niagara Student Transportation Services website at [www.nstts.ca](http://www.nstts.ca) or call 905-346-0290.

## PHOTO DAY

Our photo provider this year is Pegasus, a local company. ***Picture Day will be September 25<sup>th</sup>.***

## TERRY FOX WALK

Our Terry Fox walk will take place on Sept. 27th. More information will come home closer to the date.

Mrs. Flora, our new Administrative Assistant, is in the office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each weekday. Please inform the office of all absences using the School Messenger App which can be downloaded in the App Store of your cell phone and online. If you have any questions about the procedure, please feel free to contact the office for assistance. We do recognize that from time to time it is necessary to contact the school to get a message to your child. Please try to make all of the necessary arrangements with your child/ren in advance to avoid any missed communication. Students are able to use the office phone and are not to be using their cell phones during the school day, unless they ask permission to come down and use it at the office. Please contact your child through the office phone 905-684-4359 and not on their cell phone. Thank you!

## STUDENT FORMS

On the first day of school you receive an envelope with a variety of notices and forms which will need to be completed and returned to the school, as soon as possible. The **Confidential Student Verification** form is kept on file at the office. It is very important that we have up-to-date medical and personal information each year, as well as, an emergency contact number in case we cannot reach you at home or work. This contact person should be someone who is usually available and lives in relatively close proximity to the school. ***Please let us know if this information changes during the year.***

## STUDENT MEDICATIONS

Any medication that is to be administered to students at school must have an authorization form on file in the school completed by a physician. ***These forms are available at the school office.*** This includes allergy medication, inhalers and epipens. ***If your child requires an epipen or an inhaler, please contact the office immediately so we can send home the proper paperwork and put emergency procedures in place.***

## AGENDAS

Each child in Grades 1- 6 will be provided with a student agenda at a ***cost to the student at a subsidized cost of \$5.00.*** Our expectation is that this book be used as a communication tool between home and school on a daily basis. Payment will be collected through School Cash Online. ***Please review with your child the School Code of Conduct which is located in the front of the agenda and sign on page 5 indicating you and your child have read the Code of Conduct. Also please complete and sign the Information Technology Digital Citizenship agreement on page 6.***

## SCHOOL TIMES

8:45 a.m.	Entry
8:45 -10:25 a.m.	Instructional Block 1
10:25 -11:05 a.m.	Fitness/Nutrition Break
11:05- 12:45 p.m.	Instructional Block 2
12:45 - 1:25 p.m.	Fitness/Nutrition Break 2
1:25 – 3:05 p.m.	Instructional Block 3
3:05 p.m.	Dismissal

### **SPIRITWEAR**

You can order your Applewood School Clothing at our Meet the Teacher Night on Wed. Sept. 18th. Size samples will be available to help you make your decision. More information will come home in the next week. All clothing orders will be on-line through

### **VOLUNTEERS**

There are many opportunities at Applewood for parents/guardians to volunteer with our students and to support the many activities and events that occur during the school year. Some opportunities include working at Breakfast Club in the mornings, shelving books in the library, organizing and delivering hot lunch on Fridays or reading with students. We see this as a wonderful way to build our school, family and community connections. We welcome all who are interested and available, to please contact the office for a Volunteer Information Form.

### **WATER BOTTLES**

Applewood does have a water bottle filling station on each level. Students are encouraged to bring a re-useable water bottle to use at school. Please label the bottle with your child's name.

## **MEET THE TEACHER**

On Wednesday, September 18th from 5 – 6:30 pm, you and your children are invited to our “Meet the Teacher Night”. You can meet your child’s teachers and enjoy a hotdog in the gym or out in the school yard. There is no cost for this event as it is sponsored by our School Council but please complete your order on School Cash Online.

## **VISITORS**

We welcome visitors and parents at Applewood but you are reminded that you need to enter through the front door, sign in at the office and wear a visitor’s badge. If you are dropping off items for your child, please leave them at the office with Mrs. Flora and she will page the student to come down to the office. If you wish to communicate with your child’s teacher, please do so through the agenda, call the school or make an appointment to meet.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

On Tuesday, September 24th at 5:30 p.m. our School Advisory Council (SAC) will meet in the Learning Commons. At this meeting we will confirm meeting dates for the coming year and establish our 2019-2020 Council Executive. The Council performs a valuable role as advocates for the parents and students of Applewood. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this initial meeting. There is an intention sheet included in your information package if you would to be included on our email list or are interested in serving on our executive. It also explains what happens at meetings and the purpose of our group. Please read it over, complete and return it if you are interested.

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Breakfast Club begins Thursday, September 5th and runs from 8:10 -8:40 am, daily. It is located in the staff room. Fruit, cereal and bagels will be available for students. If any parents are willing to help out with this please contact the office. It will be necessary to complete a Volunteer Information Form. Students coming in for Breakfast Club should enter from the junior playground doors. Kindergarten parents are reminded to walk students to these doors to ensure students are met by an adult if coming for breakfast. Eve-

## **CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE**

Student cell phone use is not permitted at school unless given permission from a teacher for instructional purposes. The office phone is available for student use, with permission from a teacher. If students choose to bring a phone to school, to use on their way to and from school, the phone should be stored, off, in their backpack or in their locker. The school takes no responsibility if these items are lost, damaged or stolen. If students are found to be using phones during the school day, the phone will be held at the office for the student to pick up at the end of the day. Some students like to use a laptop or ipad for classwork. Teacher permission is required and the school does not take any responsibility for lost, damaged or stolen items.

# INITIAL SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Our tentative class organization is listed below. **Please keep in mind that changes could occur depending on our school enrollment.** Any re-organization of classes will take place on September 13th on the Early Release Day. You will be notified if the changes affect your child.

Kindergarten 1.....	Mrs. K. McMahon
DECE.....	Ms. K. Elliot
Kindergarten 2.....	Mrs. C. Dumanski
Grade ½ Wh .....	Mrs. H. Whitfield
Grade ½ Wo.....	Mrs. J. Woodhouse
Grade 2/3 .....	Mrs. K. McCumber & Ms. C. Jones
Grade 3/4 .....	Ms. L. Garrad
Grade 5/6 .....	Mr. J. Hiller
Grade 5/6.....	Ms. C. Louwerse
Librarian/French.....	Mme. T. McPherson
Prep.....	Ms. C. Jones
Learning Resource Teacher.....	Mrs. K. McCumber
Instructional Coach.....	Mrs. K. Cutriss
Educational Assistants.....	Mrs. L. Maynard & Ms. B. McLaughlin
Youth Counsellor .....	Ms. J. Gollan
Social Worker.....	Ms. J. Drury
Lunch Supervisors.....	Baba, Miss Hazel
Head Caretaker.....	Ms. S. Robson
Secretary.....	Mrs. R. Flora
Principal.....	Mrs. K. Fish

## LUNCH PROCEDURES

Students who wish to go home for lunch may do so at 2<sup>nd</sup> break (12:45 – 1:25). Please complete and return the lunch permission form included in the verification package (it will also be available online). Because students are sitting down to eat at each break, no food or drinks will be taken outside. Staying for lunch at school is a privilege and students are expected to follow the lunch room rules posted in the agenda.

## SCHOOL MILK PROGRAM

Chocolate or white milk available will be available starting mid-September. More information will follow. Milk must be purchased in advance monthly at 75 cents per carton. Please complete the milk order online through School Cash Online. Milk will be delivered to students at 2nd break. You must choose either white or chocolate for the order period.

## SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

As part of our initiative to eliminate single-use plastics in the school, we will not be giving plastic straws to students who have ordered milk. Additionally, we will not have plastic forks and spoons available to students during snack / lunch breaks. Please ensure that your child comes with reusable cutlery and a stainless steel straw (available at dollar stores) if they require one for drinking. If you are really ambitious, try eliminating litter from your child's lunch by packing food in reusable containers—we can all do our part...every bit counts!

## CHARACTER TRAIT

The DSNB is a big supporter of Character Education and at Applewood we focus on a particular character trait each month. September's trait is RESPECT. At Applewood we show respect with positive regard for others' thoughts, opinions and feelings. We are inclusive and fair in our treatment of others.

## INDOOR SHOES

Each child is asked to have a pair of indoor shoes at school – ideally a pair of running shoes as students can use these for physical education. Please note that flip flops, boots and strapless sandals are not permitted on the playground equipment.