



# THE GARRISON ROAD GAZETTE



**“Welcome Back To School”  
Edition 2009**



## FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK

**Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a safe, and restful summer and are as eager as we are to start our year off with a bang! The staff have been in for weeks now, in preparation for the upcoming year, and the classrooms look great! You will be surprised to see some new paint and new floors in many of our classrooms and in our lunch room. We also have a number of staff returning from leave. Mrs. Annibale and Mrs. McNally have returned with a number of exciting stories to share about their travels. We are also excited to welcome Ms. Tonns to our grade 3 classroom, who will be filling in for Mrs. Traves until she returns at the end of the month. Parents please take special care to read the newsletter this month, as we have had some changes to our school code of conduct and our entry and lunch hour routines. Parents, please make daily use of the student’s agendas. They are the BEST way to stay informed about what is happening in the classroom. I hope that we will see all of you at our ‘Family B-BQ and Movie Night’ on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy a BBQ, play some games and watch a movie. You will get the chance to meet your child’s teachers face to face and take a look at the great things already beginning in the classroom.**

**Let’s all have a great September!**

**Ms. S. Cocco, Principal  
Mr. M. Burns, Vice-Principal**

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



### SEPTEMBER FORMS

We thank all parents in advance for reading over, completing and returning promptly all of the forms that are accompanying your children home this week. These forms are very important to ensure that we have accurate information regarding our students, especially in emergency situations.

### ATTENTION PARENTS AND CARE- GIVERS

**EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>,  
2009**

In order to ensure the safety and security of all of our students, the school will be locked during the lunch recess from 11:45 to 12:25

Parents and care-givers who need to get in touch with their children during this time **MUST** sign in at the staff room window with one of our staff.

Thank you for helping us to ensure that our students are safe at all times during our school day.

### ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Is your child insured for medical or dental costs in case of an accidental injury? The District School Board of Niagara does not provide medical payment coverage for students. If you have no other coverage it is important that parents/guardians purchase this

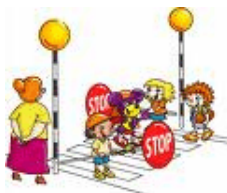
coverage to ensure that medical or dental costs are covered in case of accident. Reliable Life Student Accident Insurance forms have been provided to each student to assist you in getting coverage. It costs as little as \$2 per student for basic school day/school activity coverage.



Completed applications and payment are to be sent directly to Reliable Life Insurance Company in the pre-paid envelop provided.

## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Each year we rely on parents and grandparents to drive students to special events locally. These volunteer drivers help us to keep trip costs as low as possible. D.S.B.N. Policy requires that we have volunteer drivers annually complete an information form recording your driver's licence and insurance information before you transport students.



## SCHOOL & PARKING LOT SAFETY

For everyone's safety, parents and visitors are reminded to ALWAYS check in at the Office when entering the school during instructional hours. Please do not go into the hallways or the classrooms before checking in at the office. We must monitor all adults in our building. We would be most appreciative if parents would wait patiently in our front lobby until the classes are dismissed at 3:10 pm.

Just a reminder to parents who need to drop children off or pick children up, they may do so by using the main entrance by the office. Parents are requested to come into the school via the front door to pick up their children. Visitor parking is located on the north side of the school parking lot.

Please do not park in the semi-circular section of our school driveway. This is a very busy section of our parking lot during the school day, especially at arrival and dismissal times and every attempt must be made to keep this section safe and clear.

If you are picking up your children, do not leave your vehicle unattended in this area.



We appreciate your cooperation concerning these safety matters.

## REMINDERS BUS TRANSPORTATION

1) Students who are transported by bus Must take the bus to and from school at all times. Many bus students are choosing to walk home in nice weather.

Please complete the form that was sent home in the first day package, which will then inform the office/teacher if this is going to be a regular occurrence. We are very concerned for the safety of our students due to the heavy traffic congestion on Garrison Road. We want to ensure that students have their parents' permission to walk home.

2) Transportation Policies set by our school board do not allow students to go home on any other buses than the one that has been designated as their regular bus for the school year. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office. We would be glad to discuss this matter.

3) Please note that, under no circumstances are parents to use the bus lane at the front (south) end of the school at any time of the day. Please use the parking lot to drop off or pick-up children.

## ANAPHYLAXIS AWARENESS



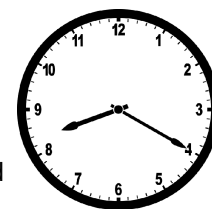
Please keep in mind that some of our students have a condition called Anaphylaxis - a severe peanut or bee sting allergy that can result in death. We are again asking parents in the Garrison Road School community to help us **REDUCE THE RISKS** for these students by avoiding sending any peanuts or peanut products to school for lunch / snack time for students throughout the school. We appreciate the support and cooperation that we have received from the parents. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school.



## LUNCH HOUR FOR STUDENTS

Milk and healthy snacks will be sold on a daily basis. A Hot Lunch Day will take place the first Friday of each month. This will be organized by the Garrison Road Parent Association.

Students in grades 5 to 8 may leave school property at lunch only if written permission is given by parents/guardians. A form is included in your first day package. Please complete this form and return it as soon as possible.



## GARRISON ROAD SCHOOL TIMES GRADES 1 TO 8

8:35 am  
8:45 am  
10:25 - 10:40 am

Entrance  
Classes Begin  
Morning Recess

11:30 - 12:25 pm  
2:05 - 2:20 pm  
3:10 pm

Lunch Hour  
Afternoon Recess  
Dismissal

E.A.'s

Mrs. Bonnie Carver  
Mrs. Patricia White  
Miss. Laura Fretz  
Mrs. Carrie Benner

Youth Counselor

Kindergarten Times  
Morning Classes  
Afternoon Classes

8:30am - 11:15am  
12:30pm - 3:10pm

Noon Hour Supervisors  
Judy Jacques, Kim Frerotte

Terry Mawhin,

### STUDENT AGENDAS

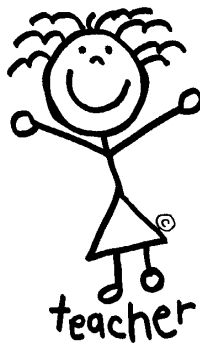
Students in grades 2-8 will be bringing home a Garrison Road School agenda. These agendas are a great way to keep lines of communication open between home and school. Our Parent Association has subsidized most of the cost to our students. We are asking for a \$2.00 donation to the school to cover the remainder of the cost.



Teachers are on duty at recess times and fifteen minutes prior to the morning and afternoon admittances. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR STUDENTS DO NOT ARRIVE ANY EARLIER THAN 8:15 a.m.** On rainy, windy, or cold and snowy days, we suggest that students adjust their routines to arrive at school just prior to bell time. At dismissal times we encourage students to go directly home. Mrs. Mahoney, our secretary, is here from 7:45 am until 3:45 pm, excluding lunch hour.

### STUDENT ABSENCE

Please call the school office in the morning and leave a message on our answering machine if your child is not going to be at school that day. It helps immensely when doing our attendance. If your child is home with flue-like symptoms (fever, cough) please inform us of this when you call.



### GARRISON ROAD BREAKFAST CLUB

Do you have 2 hours per month to spare? The GRS Breakfast Club urgently needs volunteers. This morning nutrition program is open to ALL students. Volunteers are needed from 8:15 am on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday beginning as soon as possible. Most volunteers help 1-2 times per month. If you can help please call the school at (905) 871-4830.

### THE GARRISON ROAD LUNCHTIME LIBRARY PROGRAM

Our library is open 2 days per week during the lunch recess for students who wish to do homework, read or exchange a book. If you are available to volunteer in the library from 11:40 to 12:25 one day per week or bi-weekly please contact Mrs. Spurrell at the school.



### GARRISON ROAD SCHOOL STAFF LIST

2009/2010

Principal : Miss Sally Cocco  
Vice Principal:: Mr. Michael Burns

Secretary : Mrs. Brenda Mahoney  
Caretaker : Mr. Wayne Barnhardt

Junior Kindergarten : Mrs. Becky Christina  
Senior Kindergarten : Mrs. Jodi Gates  
Grade 1 : Mrs. Pam Renshaw  
Grade 1 / 2 : Mrs. Kelly VanHelvert  
Grade 2 : Ms. Krysten Tonnos, (October) Mrs. Stefanie Traves

Grade 2/3 : Mrs. Jane Tummillo  
Grade 3 : Mrs. Sue Thomas  
Grade 3/4 : Mrs. Joanne Zolli  
Grade 4/5 : Mrs. MacNally (am) Mrs. Carmela Stewart (pm)  
Grade 5/6 : Ms. Sharon Olesevich  
Grade 6 : Mrs. Andrea Serianni  
Grade 7 : Mr. Chris Wilcox  
Grade 7/8 : Mrs. Antonette Mancuso  
Grade 8 : Mrs. Alexis Penney  
ISP : Miss Helga Wagnleightner  
Librarian : Mrs. Kelli Spurrell  
French : Mrs. Dina Annibale  
LRT : Mrs. Ann Tummillo

### STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Intermediate students interested in running for Student Council need make contact with Mrs. Mancuso by the end of Friday, September 11th. Campaigning and elections will be taking place over the next two weeks.

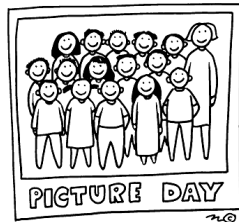
### DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 25th** is a scheduled early release - Professional Activity Day for staff. Students will arrive at school in the morning at the regular time. JK/SK students in the morning classes will take their regular busses home at their regular time. There will be not afternoon kindergarten program. Students from grades 1 through 8 will return home on their regular busses after they eat their lunch, at 12:10. Teachers will be engaged in team meetings and school growth planning throughout the remainder of

the afternoon.

Nominations for the 2009 - 2010 School Council need to be returned to the school by September 15<sup>th</sup>. The election will be held at the first School Council Meeting.

### STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS



Student photographs will be taken on September 15<sup>th</sup>. So remember to dress in your fancy clothes, and work on those smile-muscles!

### MAGAZINE FUND-RAISER

Our Parent Association's first fund-raiser of the new school year will KICK-OFF on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>. Students will attend a Pep Rally during the school day and come home with their fund-raising kit. If you receive any notices from publishers to renew your subscriptions, please ignore them and support our school by renewing them through the school magazine fundraiser. You will receive the best price while our school retains a substantial profit (approx, 40%).

### FUN FAIR/MOVIE NIGHT/ OPEN HOUSE BARBEQUE

This year we are going to try something new and fun! For the month of September we will be combining our movie night and our open house barbeque. One September 18<sup>th</sup>, we will begin the evening with a 'Welcome Back' Barbeque and Fun Fair. Bring the whole family, and get some delicious barbeque, and play a few games as well. When the sun goes down, we will be showing an out door movie! Bring a comfy chair, a couple of blankets and some bug spray for a wonderful evening!



### GRADE 7 OVERNIGHT TRIP TO FORT GEORGE



An overnight trip to Fort George in Niagara on the Lake has been planned for Grade 7 students on September the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. This excursion coincides with the History Curriculum students will be learning this year. A list of items to bring and cost will be distributed to the students closer to the event date.

### AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

Garrison Road School has received information from available tutors in the area. Parents who are looking for extra support after school with homework or help with basic skills are encouraged to contact Mr. Burns for a referral. Times are flexible and some session may be able to take place at the school, or at home.

### TERRY FOX RUN

Students at Garrison Road will be participating in the Terry Fox National School Run Day on the afternoon of Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. We are asking that all students donate \$1.00 toward the fight against cancer.



### PIZZA LUNCH

Every Friday, excluding Hot Lunch days, staff and students will have the opportunity to purchase pizza by the slice. The cost is \$1.00/slice. We will be taking orders for pizza throughout the week, ending on Thursday at noon. Pizza will be delivered to the classrooms at lunch on Fridays.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL & PARENT ASSOCIATION

The School Council and Parent Association are terrific way of becoming involved in our school community.

Come out to our first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 29<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 6:00 pm in the Library.

### SCHOOL TEAMS & CLUBS

Cros  
Club

Stude  
wishi  
partic  
this  
cross  
runni  
can  
outsi  
gym.



s Country

nts  
ng to  
ipate in  
years  
country  
ng club  
sign up  
de the  
Thanks to

Mrs. Thomas for coaching the team again this year.

This program offers a wide variety of instruments to choose from including Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto & Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone Horn and Tube as well as Violin, Viola, Cello & String Bass. Unfortunately, Beginner Percussion is completely FULL for the 2009/2010 music year.

If you have any questions or concerns about the instrumental music program, please contact the secretary Sandi at 905 688-2949 or please check out our website at: [www.freewebs.com/niagaramusic](http://www.freewebs.com/niagaramusic)

### **KIDS QUEST & FORT ERIE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

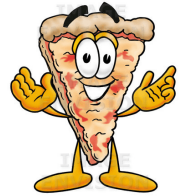
This year, the Fort Erie library, and Kids Quest program have collaborated to create an after school program designed to help children with homework, school projects and social skills. This fantastic program is completely free, and has worked wonders for many students in our area. The program is also looking for volunteers to help facilitate the program. The program is available to all students from grade 3 and up. Space for this program is limited, so please fill out the attached sheet and return it to the library or school as soon as possible. Any parents who are looking for extra support for their children's academics are encouraged to look into this program.

### **Niagara Elementary Instrumental Music**

If you are interested in having your student participate in instrumental music this year, be advised that the program has extended its 'Early Bird Special' rate for beginner students. The cost is \$250 if the student has their own instrument, or \$350 if the student would like to rent one from the DSBN.

### **PIZZA DAY!**

Our first school pizza day will be this Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Students who would like to purchase pizza for lunch should bring 1\$ per slice.



**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2009**

**NSTS.ca**  
o= o=

Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) is a consortium between the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board. The mandate of NSTS is to plan and manage transportation services for both Boards and to provide safe, efficient and effective transportation to the students of Niagara.

NSTS is open all summer planning the 2009-10 transportation routes. You can find bus stop locations and times on their website after August 15 for the 2009-10 school year. You will need your Ontario Education Number (OEN) which is located on your report card to log-on to our secure website.

For transportation information please visit their website [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca) or call 905 346-0290.

