Claremont P.S.

Parent Newsletter

September 21, 2020

**School Community Council SCC**

The partnership between home and school is a critical one to ensure all students are provided with the best learning opportunities possible. Positive parent engagement and involvement is an important goal of ours at Claremont P.S. We strive to work with parents and getting involved in the SCC is one way you can do this. The purpose of the SCC as outlined by the DDSB is to:

• Support student achievement and well-being.

• Enhance accountability between school and school community

• Increase public confidence.

• Have an advisory role and provide input to the principal on educational topics and issues.

• Seek input from the school community on educational topics and issues.

• Plan and support activities to increase active participation of parents.

Our first SCC meeting and election of the executive will be taking place on Tuesday, September 29th @ 6:30 pm via a virtual link. Please contact the school website at [claremontps@ddsb.ca](mailto:claremontps@ddsb.ca) if you would like to join us, as a voting or visiting member. Paper copies of the nomination form are available in the office.

**Sabrina’s Law**

Sabrina’s Law requires that all district school boards have procedures and training in place to protect students at risk of anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and can cause death. Triggers for anaphylaxis may include such things as food (e.g. peanuts, tree nuts).

Our goal is to eliminate preventable serious reactions and death due to anaphylaxis and to **reduce the risk of exposure** for students at risk of anaphylaxis to potential allergens.

Claremont P.S. can be considered “Allergy Aware”, and not “Allergy Safe” as one cannot guarantee that the school environment is 100% allergen free. Where possible our learning environment should be free from any trace of the allergen.

Please note, that soy bean butter and other similar peanut-free spreads (e.g. “WOW” soy butter**) are not permitted at Claremont P.S**. *The risk is that these types of products look, smell and taste like real peanut butter.* It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish these products from real peanut butter which makes it difficult to control for a “peanut safe” environment. As alternatives, other peanut-free spreads that don’t look, smell and taste like peanut butter can be used as part of a nutritious lunch (e.g. hummus, low fat ricotta cheese, vegetable purees, bean dips, guacamole).

Thank you for helping to keep our school safe for everyone!

**Administration of Medications at School**

If your child needs to have medication (Epi-pens, inhalers, or oral medication) administered at school, it is critical that you complete the proper form and have it signed by your child’s physician as soon as possible to allow us to administer the medication. This form is available in the office. Please return forms by the end of September.

**Lunchroom Supervisors**

We are in need of both fulltime and replacement Lunchroom supervisors. This is a paid position from 11:50 a.m. until 12:50 p.m., supervising children while they eat and while on the yard during the lunch recess. Appropriate PPE and training are provided. Please contact Miss Gerbis at 905-649-2000 if you are interested and able to join our team of lunch supervisors.

**Fire Drills and LockDown Drills**

The week of September 21-25 is Safety Week in the Durham District School Board. Our school practiced our first socially distant fire drill on September 18. Weather permitting, we will hold 2 additional drills in the coming week. In addition, we will practice a modified Lockdown Drill, in which students remain quietly in their seats, but gesture to where they would sit in an actual Lockdown.

**Virtual School**

As of September 2nd, we have been advised by the Durham District School Board (DDSB) that any families wishing to transfer their child/ren to the at-home on-line learning program will need to send an email requesting this transfer to: ElementaryAtHome@ddsb.ca. In your email, please include your child/ren's full name(s) and that they currently attend Claremont P.S. Your child/ren will then be placed on a waitlist for DDSB's at-home learning. Consideration for all wait-listed requests will be based on on-line learning class sizes and staffing, as per the Durham District School Board.

**Returning Student Verification Forms**

Returning Student Registration forms are being completed online. Please check these forms and make any necessary changes (eg. new work or cell numbers, a change in the caregiver or emergency contact, a new place of employment, etc.). It is critical that we have accurate information so that we can contact you in the case of an emergency. Should any information change in the coming months, please let the office know so the information can be updated on the system. Parents sign in to the Parent Portal to complete these forms.

**Islamic Heritage Month (Virtual)**

The Muslim Educators’ network of Durham is presenting Islamic Heritage Month.

* October 1 Islamic Heritage month launch
* October 8 Family Fitness Night
* October 15 Story Time with MEND
* October 22 Art Night
* October 29 STEM Night

**FSL Programs Review Consultations**

The DDSB is connecting with school communities and the public to receive your feedback on the future of the Core French and French Immersion programs at the DDSB. The information gathered will provide us with actionable and data-driven results as we review FSL programming. The French as a Second Language Department will be hosting two virtual public consultation sessions on:

• Thursday, October 1 at 7pm (Whitby/Oshawa area Trustees will be in attendance); and

• Thursday, October 8 at 7pm (Ajax/Pickering/North area Trustees will be in attendance). September 16, 2020 2

To register for these sessions, please click on the following link: http://bit.ly/FSLProgramsReview.