



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

P.O. Box 578, 80, 8th Avenue

Englehart, Ontario

P0J 1H0

Phone: (705) 544-2397 Fax: (705) 544-2466

Principal: Mr. Matthew Turner email: mturner@ncdsb.on.ca

Dear Parents & Guardians,

September 10, 2014

Welcome back to our entire school community!

We have had a great first few days of school, and all of the children seem to be settling back into their daily routines. Please know that we will do everything we can to make your child's experience here a great one, so please be in regular contact with your child's teacher and myself as needed.

I would just like to take a moment to give you a few updates as we finish up our first full week of school.

School Website:

Please visit the school website often at www.ncdsb.on.ca/schools/school.php?id=3 where I will post as much about our school as I can (this letter for example will be on there)!!

Classroom Open Houses:

We will continue to offer instructional time open houses this year, tentatively scheduled for **October 17, December 12, March 27, and May 8 all at 2:20 pm**. Please consider yourself invited to our school for these special occasions. Thank you to our staff for providing this opportunity again!

Parent/Guardian Email List:

A reminder that we have an email distribution list where I will send home items from the school to you via email. If you are not already on the list and would like to be, please let me know your email and I will include it. Also, please keep me updated of any changes to your email address.

Terry Fox Date Change:

Due to a conflict in scheduling at the Public and High school, we have changed our Terry Fox Walk to **Friday September 26 at about 9:10 am**. You are welcome to join us.

Pepperette Sales:

I encourage you to sell as many pepperettes as possible as this is our major fundraiser for the year. We will be exploring more options for school yard improvement this year, and funds raised from pepperettes will go towards any projects.

Open House and BBQ:

Our annual open house and BBQ is scheduled for **Thursday October 2 from 4:30 -6:00**. This is a free BBQ. Food will be served until 5:30. Thank you to our Catholic School Council for running this event. Hope to see you there!

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Stop-A-Bully.ca:

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of our students, we are pleased to continue with the stop-a-bully program as started last year.

The “Stop a Bully” strategy continues to allow for the safe and anonymous reporting of alleged bullying behaviour. The reporting tool is very easy to use and can be found online at www.stopabully.ca. The anonymous reports are forwarded directly to the school principal’s email address and then the matter can be investigated accordingly. Every school in our province must ensure that some sort of opportunity for anonymous reporting is implemented. We continue to believe that Stop a Bully will be an excellent method to fulfill our responsibilities in a positive way. Take note, however that you are still welcome to **directly contact me** in person or by phone/email with any concerns you may have, either with issues that have happened during school, after school hours, or related to social media.

As time progresses, know that we remain committed to ensuring that our students, their families and our staff have a clear understanding of bullying. The Ontario Ministry of Education has defined bullying as:

“aggressive and typically repeated behaviour by a pupil where, (a) the behaviour is intended by the pupil to have the effect of, or the pupil ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of, (i) causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the individual’s reputation or harm to the individual’s property, or (ii) creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and (b) the behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the pupil and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education (“intimidation”). For the purposes of the definition of “bullying” above, behaviour includes the use of any physical, verbal, electronic, written or other means.”

It is very important that we all understand the definition of what bullying is and what it is not.

We need to develop our children’s understanding of the difference between misunderstandings, conflicts and bullying. We will work together to deal with all issues between students and strive for positive outcomes for all members of our school community. It is my hope that through effective and ongoing prevention, intervention and communication, we can all do our part in reducing inappropriate student conduct and stop bullying from affecting our school and community.

If you have any questions about these items or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matt Turner

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