

A.K. WIGG PUBLIC SCHOOL ANNOUNCER

The Mission of A.K. Wigg Public School is to involve students, parents, teachers, and community members to maximize individual potential by providing a safe and friendly environment which promotes achievement of academic skills, accountability, effective communication and a positive value system.

Academics, Arts, and Athletics through Concentration, Co-operation, Communication, and Courtesy



District School Board of Niagara
Achieving Success Together

Welcome Back! **September, 2011**

Welcome to A. K. Wigg Public School!

On behalf of staff, I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new families and to those who are returning for this new school year. I hope everyone had a relaxing, fun-filled vacation and are roaring to get back at a new school year. All of our staff members have been busy preparing for what will be an exciting year of teaching and learning. Once again, I find myself looking forward to a terrific year with students and staff. We continue to be appreciative of the positive attitude, cooperative manner, and high interest level in all our students and their parents. We are looking forward to meeting with everyone at our **Open House and BBQ** which will be held the evening of **Thursday, Sept. 22nd**, from 4:30 to 6:00.

Our Volunteers

Special thanks to our parents who have contributed to the school during the previous year. Needless to say, we welcome and value all of the people who volunteer. We encourage parents to become involved in their children's education. **The first School Council Meeting of the school year will be held September 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the library.** Please join us!

Early Release Days

This year the District School Board of Niagara has designated two early release days to students to allow for

additional teacher professional development. Please make a note that the first **Early Release Day is Friday, September 23rd**. On this day, students will attend school until 12:30 pm. The second Early Release Day is February 17th.

It is essential that morning Kindergarten students do not ride home on the grade 1-8 bus routes since these buses follow the afternoon school to home route. These routes may not go by or near the home addresses of Kindergarten students who are scheduled on the mid-day school to home buses. Morning JK and SK students may ride their scheduled buses to school on these days, but parents will be required to pick up their child at the end of the morning class. If a parent cannot commit to picking up their child, they should not send their child to school on these dates. Our crossing guards will be notified of the earlier dismissal time.

The Student Agenda

Use of the Student Agenda is an effective tool for our Gr. 1 to 8 students and will be handed out during the first week of school. By contributing \$6.00 to cover the cost of the Agenda, we hope that students will feel more a sense of responsibility and ownership in the use of this time management and communication tool. Teachers will instruct the students on how to use the agenda and the value in doing so. We appreciate your support in helping

your child to manage the use of the agenda. **Please submit \$6.00 to the classroom teacher to help offset the cost of this program as soon as possible.**

Student Verification Forms

You will need to review and make changes or complete the Student Verification Form and return it to the home room teacher as soon as possible. **It is extremely important that we have a local emergency contact telephone number for your child at all times!** Most of our school families have consented for the school to release the names, photographs, video images, and/or accomplishments of our students. **If at this time you wish to change your consent to this release of information, please contact the school.**

"Insure Your Child - Accidents Can Happen!"

Student Accident Insurance

Is your child insured for medical or dental costs in the case of an accidental injury? Enclosed in our opening package is the form for Student Accident Insurance. Please consider this opportunity to purchase coverage since the school board does not provide medical payment coverage for students. If you have no other coverage, it is important for the parents / guardians to consider purchasing Student Accident Insurance that will protect their children from accidental injuries, particularly dental injuries. Reliable Life Student Accident Insurance will assist you in getting coverage. It costs as little as \$3.50 per student for the basic school day / school activity coverage. Students taking part in co-curricular activities are strongly encouraged to consider this coverage.

Character Matters!

At A. K. Wigg, we will always work hard to continue to assist our students in developing a positive value system.

We will continue to emphasize positive character traits in class and through our Monthly Student of the Month certificates. **Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.**

Supplementing Lunches

In keeping with our emphasis on health and fitness, the milk program will begin again in September and the Pizza Program will continue as well. We continue to encourage all students to participate in school clubs and teams that are offered throughout the year. Cross Country and Intermediate Soccer are already underway.

Safety First

Any time you know your child will be absent from school, please call the office prior to 8:30 a.m., or send a note in advance to inform us of the absence. Since the school office is open from 8:00 a.m., to 4:00 p.m., our school answering machine may also be used to leave us messages. ***All students arriving late must report to the office before going to class!***

Parking Lot Safety

In order to ensure the safety of all of our students walking to and from school and getting on and off the buses, we request your help in maintaining our parking lot safety.

1) We would like to see fewer vehicles picking up and dropping off our students in the parking area. This would help alleviate much congestion. Please remember that buses, as well as students who are walking, **always** have the right-of-way.

2) There are newly painted, clearly marked pedestrian walkways on the parking lot. Please be aware of students and parents using them at entry and dismissal times.

3) The parking lot on the north side of the school is designated for staff, leaving a limited number of parking spaces for volunteers and school visitors at the front of the school.

4) Primary students enter and exit the school through the North doors and the junior / intermediate students enter and exit via the East doors. **We ask that no students enter / exit the front doors unless accompanied by a parent / guardian.**

5) Students who need to cross Haist Street now have a raised crosswalk with a pedestrian activated stoplight in addition to our crossing guard. These students have a slightly different location where they are crossing, compared to last year. Please be aware of this. We would also ask the parents to remind their children to use only this cross walk to cross Haist Street.

School Safety Reminders

Every year schools review their efforts in keeping routines in line with The Safe Schools Mandates from the Ministry.

We are asking parents to please abide by these routines. We only put them in place in the interest of keeping children safe.

1) It may be necessary for parents to enter the school at entry and exit times, but we do require that you report to the office *and* sign in the visitor log. Please do not proceed to the class rooms until reporting to the office. We are trying to keep the instructional time free from interruptions near the end of the day.

2) Our staff are on supervision duty at 8:40 a.m. Please do not send children to the school earlier than this unless you have pre-arranged something with the child's teacher or are a part of the Way To Grow Daycare. At the end of the day, children should go to their home. It is important for them to "check in with you" before they head to a friend's place, park, etc.

3) If you bring your child to school in the morning, we ask that you "Say goodbye" on the outside of the fence and

send the children through the gate. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Supervision

Teachers are on duty from 8:40 a.m., until entry at 8:55 a.m., and again during Fitness Breaks and throughout the Nutrition Breaks. Students are instructed to remain within the school playground boundaries under the supervision of staff at all times. Please assist us in stressing this information to your children. Students who eat lunch at school eat in their classroom under the supervision of Parental Lunchtime Assistants and A. K. Wigg Staff.

Students must stay on school property at all times, if they remain at school for lunch. If students are leaving school property for lunch it must be preceded by written permission from the parent/guardian who then assumes responsibility for them at this time.

Book Fair Coming to A.K. Wigg

Our school will be running the Scholastic Book Fair from September, 21st to September 23rd. The Fair will be open during nutrition breaks and during the Open House and Barbeque. More information will be coming home soon.

Terry Fox Walk

The staff and students at A. K. Wigg will be showing our support of the efforts of a Canadian hero, Terry Fox.

We will be walking and running around our lovely school property on Wednesday, September 28th. We will be sending information home shortly with more details.

School Photographs

Say cheese! Our school photographers, Groff's, will be coming on October 5th to take individual and class pictures. Hope everyone has their best smiles ready. A re-take date will be scheduled following the photo day for students who were absent.

Anaphylaxis and other Medical Concerns

All parents should be aware that there are children in our school with life threatening food allergies to peanuts and nuts and wheat products also known as Anaphylaxis.

This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and is potentially life-threatening. If your child has any allergy or requires medication, please tell us. With your help, we can complete the appropriate forms and do our very best to make sure all of our students are safe, healthy and able to concentrate on learning. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Please make sure that you are sending foods to school that are free from peanuts, nut oils or nut products.

School-Based Immunization Clinics

Did you know that every year in Canada, 1,400 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 400 will die from it? Almost all cervical cancers are caused by a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection. The HPV vaccine is an important medical advancement that makes cervical cancer a preventable disease. Once again this year, the HPV vaccine called Gardasil® will be offered free to **all female Grade 8 students** through Niagara Region Public Health's school-based immunization clinics. In addition, the Hepatitis B vaccine and the Meningococcal vaccine called Menactra® will be offered free to **all Grade 7 students**. Parent/student information packages will be coming home with grade 7 and 8 children later in the month. The first scheduled inoculation date is September 22nd. Students will have an information session with our school nurse on September 24th. For more information, speak to your school nurse or call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

Magazine Fund-Raiser

Hold off on re-ordering those subscriptions. Our Annual Magazine Fund-Raiser will run between October 4th and 25th. This is a great way to get popular titles at low prices as well as to support us in providing fun, educational extra-curricular activities.

School Website

As some of you are aware, we have finally been able to begin updating the school website. Now that we have the capability to maintain the site from the school we will be communicating information more and more through this avenue. We will be posting minutes from the School Council meetings as well as these School Newsletters. Starting in October, we will be going to an "electronic only" version.

In addition, staff members will be able to post things like classroom newsletters, calendars, upcoming event information, and other information for your convenience.

(Please return ballot to be entered into our monthly Newsletter Draw)

A.K. WIGG PUBLIC SCHOOL
"SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER BALLOT"
Due by Friday, September 16, 2011

Student: _____

Teacher: _____

Parent Signature: _____

