

quite simple: Food wrappers/containers that come to school, will also go home. There is a variety of reusable plastic containers for both liquids and solids on the market to make everyone's life easier and avoid unnecessary spillages and messes. Please use them to help your child contribute to a cleaner school environment! Raising environmentally conscious children is needed to protect our planet. Another step in reducing the amount of food thrown away by the children is to involve them with their lunch preparation. Food selected by parents and children in appropriate quantities, together is less likely to be placed in the garbage cans during the day!

SCHOOL AGENDA

Over the past few years, many parents of children in the primary grades commented on the usefulness of the agenda as a communication tool between home/school: notes never got lost and messages were delivered to the appropriate recipient. For this valuable tool to be most effective, we need the teachers AND parents to check it on a regular basis. Lester B. Pearson requires that every student bring an agenda to school every school day. This year it is available to you again at a cost of **\$6.00**. Please make cheques payable to *Lester B. Pearson P.S.*

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Our Curriculum Night has been scheduled for **Thursday, September 24 between 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.** You are invited to come to school on that night to meet the teachers and receive valuable information about the curriculum to be covered this year as well as practical information about classroom routines, evaluation strategies, homework and upcoming field trips.

We ask that **CHILDREN DO NOT ACCOMPANY THEIR PARENTS TO SCHOOL THAT EVENING**. To accommodate families with several siblings two sessions have been planned for this evening:

~ 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. ~

More information will be shared with you via the classroom teachers in the upcoming weeks. This evening is not a time reserved for personal interviews. Should you wish to speak with your child's teacher privately, kindly schedule an appointment for an alternate day.

CHARACTER MATTERS

The character trait for the month of September is **RESPECT**.

MILK PROGRAM

We are happy to offer a milk program again this year. Milk distribution will start on **September 28**. Kindly help your child to remember to bring the completed order form and payment as soon as possible.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR SHOES

Please make sure your child has a pair of indoor shoes for the classroom and the gym (yes! even in grades 7 & 8). Platform sneakers are not appropriate footwear for Phys.Ed. classes. Thank you for helping us keep students safe, the school clean, and the mud outside! This is one more step in keeping up with our school climate commitment.

LOST & FOUND

Each year students typically misplace personal items such as lunch bags, jackets, gym clothes, shoes and the like. When

such items are found in the halls or on the playground, they are placed in bins in the hall outside the north parking lot entrance. If your child comes home without a cap or a sweater, please encourage him or her to check the bins on a regular basis. Although unclaimed items are eventually donated to charity, we would love to see emptier bins! Please reinforce with your child the need to keep track of their personal things to help keep the school tidier and certainly to avoid having to replace lost items! Thanks for your cooperation.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The youngest child of each family is bringing home today our 2009 - 2010 school calendar. Please keep your copy of the school calendar in an accessible location and refer to it frequently as it is a wealth of information: days of the learning cycle, pizza and sub lunch dates, cultural events and main outings, sport events and holidays. In your calendar, you will also find our school Code of Behaviour and a variety of helpful pieces of information.

SEPTEMBER 25th IS A P.A. DAY



Please note that on this day the Staff will be working on Curriculum Initiatives. Children will not be attending school on this day.

CELEBRATING MULTICULTURALISM

We are proud to celebrate all our students at LBP. We regularly post the high holy days of each faith in this area each month.

ROSH HASHANAH - Sept. 19 - 20: The Jewish New Year, marks the start of a 10-day period of spiritual self-examination and repentance which ends with **Yom Kippur**. Families celebrate with a festive dinner at which apples dipped in honey are eaten.

EID-UL-FITR - Sept. 21: Marks the end of Ramadhan, the month of fast. It falls on the first day of the following month Shawal. The beginning of the month depends on the sighting of the new moon.

YOM KIPPUR - Sept. 28: - the day of Atonement, is the most solemn of the Jewish Holy Days. At synagogue, the evening service is called Kol Nidre. People ask for forgiveness of their sins and forgive others. Jews refrain from all eating and drinking on this day.

OUTSTANDING LIBRARY BOOKS

We would like to start off this school year by clearing every student's account of outstanding library resources. It would be greatly appreciated if you could contact Mme Reed or Mme Ledlow, at your earliest convenience, if you are still unable to locate a "lost" resource. As we would prefer not to place restrictions on borrowing privileges, we hope to quickly resolve all issues. If you paid for a lost book last year and it has been found over the summer, please contact us and we would be pleased to reimburse the paid amount.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

There are numerous tasks involved in the operation of an effective and efficient library and any assistance you can give would be most appreciated!

If you would like to volunteer in our library, please contact Mme Reed or Mme Ledlow.



Sept. 2009

SCHOOL PRIORITIES: LITERACY, SCHOOL CLIMATE, COMMUNICATION

Vol. 20, No. 1



TRUSTEE:	Mr. G. Kerr	905-713-1729
SUPERINTENDENT:	Mr. J. Parappally	905-884-4477
ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:	Mme V. O'Malley	
	Mme B. Weafer	905-841-3030

WELCOME BACK!!!

We hope that you and your family enjoyed your time together this summer. With school having just begun today for the children, we are excited about renewing our relationships with every family. It is really nice to see the smiling faces - children and adults - as we begin to work and learn together once again. We are looking forward to another excellent year!



NEW FAMILIES

A special welcome to all the new families who are joining our school community for the first time. We hope that your stay at Lester B. Pearson will be educationally enriching and enjoyable.

To the families of our new Grade 1 students, we welcome you to the French Immersion program. We are delighted that you have chosen Lester B. Pearson for your child's education.

STAFF

We continue to be extremely proud of the excellent staff at LBP! Here is the list for this year:

- Gr. 1:** Mme Cimarelli/Mme Ladouceur, Mme Vigneau, Mme Dowson, Mme Tessier and Mme Pascu
- Gr. 2:** Mme Tremblay, Mme Malchelosse/Mme Ladouceur, Mme Hampton, Mme Leniveau, Mme Gagnon
- Gr. 2/3:** Mme Mackillican, Mme Dumont
- Gr. 3:** Mme Abela-Nagels/Mme Kranczock-Mainolfi, Mme Taylor, Mme Maw
- Gr. 3/4:** Mme Giguère, Mme Bossé
- Gr. 4:** Mme Iannicello, Mme Franklin
- Gr. 5:** Mme Belzile, Mme Drapeau, Mme Duggan
- Gr. 6:** Mme Bourgault, M. Isaac, Mme Beatty
- Gr. 7:** Mme Argouin, Mme Keenan, Mme Hoekstra
- Gr. 8:** Mme Jean, Mme Harrison, M. Jourdain
- Library:** Mme Reed and Mme Ledlow
- SERT:** Mme Matthews
- Music/English/Prep teachers:** Mme Fillion, Mme Ledlow, M. Rainsford, Mme Williams, Mme Primeau and Mme L. Harrison

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

LESTER B. PEARSON P.S.
www.lesterbpearson.com



We are pleased to welcome back our wonderful teachers and also to offer a warm LBP welcome to Mme Lesley Harrison who will be providing support in the primary grades on a part-time basis. We are happy to see our staff members who are returning to us from leave; Mme Belzile and Mme Hampton. We are glad that they will be an important part of such a dynamic staff. Welcome also, to our new secretary, Mrs. Curlew. With Mrs. Thorne and Mrs. Challenger being so busy, we know that the addition of extra support will be greatly appreciated.

The rest of our staff is stable. Our office is staffed by Mrs. Thorne, Mrs. Challenger and Mrs. Curlew. Our administrative team remains Mme O'Malley (Principal) and Mme Weafer (Vice-Principal). Mr. Hutchinson is leading our excellent team of caretakers once again and is assisted by Mr. Binns, Mr. Lawlor, Mr. McGhee and Mrs. Wilson. Each of these people plays a big part at Lester B. Pearson P.S. We are indebted to them daily for their skills and commitment.

We will be watching fluctuations in our enrollment number over the month of September. We know, however, that should school re-organization become necessary, that our highly professional staff will do their very best to be sensitive to children's needs and to minimize disruption to programming.

As we look forward to this new year, there are several areas that we will address as part of our plan for continuous improvement, which has recently been reviewed and updated with the input of staff:

We will continue to emphasize literacy skills through our focus on writing, assessment and evaluation. We will also continue to focus on school climate where we develop a school environment that supports a purposeful, inclusive and supportive education through the use of progressive discipline and restorative approaches.

This year we will continue to concentrate our efforts on a whole-school approach to relationship building and discipline which is based on the principle of teaching appropriate ways of "being" in society. We are looking at restorative rather than strictly punitive measures to deal with difficulties. Once again we will maintain our "Reflection Room" at recess each day as well as the use of trained

peer-mediators to solve conflicts. The reflection room is staffed by trained teachers and peer-mediators. Children can be asked to attend or they can request some time with the teacher to resolve difficulties or discuss problems and seek advice. Also, our continued Bullying Prevention Education and Character Matters! Education will be reflected in our recognition assemblies at the end of each term. Please note on the calendar that we will be having a presentation from York Regional Police on Curriculum Night. Our community officer will be discussing the topic of Cyber-bullying: what it looks like and how to prevent it. Plan to attend this informative presentation on September 24.

THE NEWSLETTER: A VERY IMPORTANT TOOL FOR COMMUNICATION – DON'T MISS OUT! SIGN UP TODAY!

The **L.B.P. News** is published on our web-site every month. We no longer send out paper copies, with the exception of this first edition, in the interest of conservation. Please check your copy of the school calendar, which you received today as well, for the publication dates. Go to our website at www.lesterbpearson.com and sign up to receive the link for your school newsletter on the last Thursday of each month delivered to your e-mail address. Just click on newsletter, then "subscribe". It's quick and easy to do (at the end of September you will receive the newsletter for October.) You may also go to www.lesterbpearson.com where they are published monthly. The School Council, Building Futures and School Supporters' Association also produce a monthly newsletter called the **Parent Bulletin**. Expect to receive an electronic notice of this newsletter on the second Thursday of each month with the exception of September. **This newsletter too will be "online only" this year.** Both will keep you informed about upcoming events, pertinent educational information, community opportunities and general messages. Don't delay – important news await!

We are so pleased to be with you for another wonderful year of learning and sharing together!

Véronique O'Malley, Principal
Brenda Weafer, Vice Principal

STUDENT REGISTRATION VERIFICATION

Today you will receive the Student Registration Card. We ask that you review this information and make any changes to the form as required. This form is used on a daily basis to relay important messages to parents and emergency contacts when your child is too sick to stay at school. Please help us do our job well by adding any pertinent information and all essential contact numbers (**including your email address** as this continues to become a more and more important communication tool!) and return the completed form promptly to your child's teacher.

SAFE ARRIVAL

Please notify the school as soon as possible either by phoning or by sending a note with a sibling if your child is going to be away from school or late for classes. A message can be left on our voicemail at any time. You can call the school at (905) 841-3030. We rely on you to help us account for all the children quickly and efficiently each school day.

STUDENT PICK UP AND DROP OFF

You can help! Please be reminded that **ONLY** buses can enter the bus loop (the driveway directly in front of the school) **between 8:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.** Your cooperation is essential for the safety of our children. If you drive your child to school in the morning, please drop him/her off **directly on Odin Crescent**. A friendly staff member will assist children to cross at the front of the bus loop. Please watch out for our students at all times. **At the end of the day, please note that cars are not allowed in the bus loop or the parking lot.** Parking is available on adjacent side streets. According to the Aurora By-Law, parking is **NOT** permitted on Odin Crescent directly in front of the school building, although officers do allow you to pull up and drop your child off quickly. If you enter the driveway, you are slowing down the arrival of our buses and putting the safety of our student walkers in jeopardy! Thank you for your cooperation. **Please note that buses have priority. This may mean that you may have to wait to exit or enter the parking lot.**



A message from our drivers: This is a reminder that students riding a bus home are only permitted to exit their bus at their regular designated stop. Drivers will not permit students to visit with friends at alternate locations without an official bus pass from the school office. A bus pass can be obtained from the school secretaries upon presentation of a signed and dated note from parents, if space is available on the desired bus.

A final note on bussing: During the first few weeks of school, the bus drivers are getting used to their routes and which children board at the various stops. Busses may arrive later or earlier than scheduled. Please continue to arrive at the stop a minimum of 5 minutes prior to your scheduled time to ensure that your child does not miss the bus should it come a few minutes early. Your patience is appreciated during this transitional period. If you continue to encounter regular bussing disruptions, please contact Noreen, our student transportation services contact at: (905) 713-2535 ext. 4559.

AFTER SCHOOL RE-ENTRY

Our caretakers are a hard working group who take their work seriously and make every effort to ensure a clean and comfortable environment for our students and teachers. Please reinforce responsibility in your child to bring home all that is required at the end of the day so that our caretakers can complete their work without interruption. To assist our caretakers in their efforts, we ask that you not return to school to claim forgotten materials, etc. It causes a safety concern for the supervision of visitors who may be walking on wet floors, etc. and cannot ensure that student belongings left at school remain secure in the classrooms. Thank you!

LUNCH SUPERVISORS



Would you like to help out at school during lunch hour (12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.). Could you spare an hour a day/a week to help supervise our students? If you are able to set aside some time to help us or act as an occasional assistant whom we could call upon when we are in need, please speak with Mrs. Thorne so that we may complete the paperwork to ensure that you are paid for your services. (\$10.25/hour for 1.15 hour/day) Thank you in advance.

FIFTH DISEASE

Fifth Disease is a mild viral infection seen most often in children between the ages of 5 and 14 years. Many children infected with this virus do not become ill. Some will have a mild fever and a distinctive rash which may come and go over a period of 1 to 3 weeks. The virus spreads from person to person in much the same way as a common cold. People who have the virus are infectious for several days before the start of the rash. Fifth Disease is mostly communicable before the onset of the rash, and probably not communicable once the rash appears. If you suspect your child has Fifth Disease, please contact the office immediately as people with weakened immunity and pregnant women are especially at risk.

If you have any questions or concerns about Fifth Disease, you are invited to contact the **York Region Health Service Department Health Connection Hotline at 1-800-361-5653.**

HEAD LICE

After each school break, it is strongly recommended that parents check their children for head lice. Please notify the school if you suspect head lice. Head lice nits look like dandruff that cannot be brushed off. It is usually the eggs that are noticed first; they are attached to the hair by a cement-like material and are difficult to remove. For more information about Head Lice, please call the York Region Public Health at (905) 895-4511.

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Please be reminded that activities throughout the school year may require the use of student names, age, grade, etc. and while notices will be sent for most events, parents are welcome to discuss any restrictions they require with the administration. Just notify us in writing that you do NOT wish to have this information published in the newsletter or on the website. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCHOOL SECURITY

It is the practice of the York Region District School Board to yearly inform families of the right of administrators to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice or permission. As well, it is important for families to be aware that the police may periodically be invited onto school property to conduct their own searches. Police searches may also be conducted without notice or permission of the general community.

Staff members at LBP take the matter of student safety very seriously. Conscientious staff vigilance combined with appropriate security features (such as locking the access doors to the building except for the main entrance during instructional time) have contributed to a very positive safety record at LBP. We are ever mindful, however, of the need to review practices on an on-going basis.

We continue to require that ALL visitors report to the main office upon entering the school whether visiting the school, picking up your child or bringing lunches or materials. Our office staff will contact your child. Please refrain from walking directly to your child's class. This step will assist us in securing a comfortable environment for all children at LBP. Again this year, only the front doors of the school will be left unlocked during school hours. Please follow the door sign and report to the office upon entering the building. If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, please wait in the front foyer of the school where your child will meet you. To ease congestion in the halls,

they will be asked to exit the building with their class members and walk around to the front to meet you. **Thank you for not going to the classrooms - even in Grade 1!**

If you are visiting with the expectation of accessing the rest of the building, you are kindly required to **wear a visitor/volunteer badge** issued by the office staff. This will assist staff in avoiding having to redirect unidentified visitors to the office. Thank you for your co-operation in helping us to protect the safety and security of each student at LBP.

LAST MINUTE REQUESTS AND MESSAGES: PLEASE DON'T!

On a daily basis, we are looking after the well-being of over 740 students. Please help us do our job well in ensuring the safety of every child.

Please inform both the office and the after-school provider (i.e. daycare) when you decide to pick up your child at the end of the school day. This routine should avoid unnecessary emergency procedures and a lot of worrying by both the staff and the after-school provider. Plan to arrive at the school by 3:30 p.m. to meet your child as children waiting for late parents are often confused and worried.

When picking up your child at the end of the day, please wait in the main lobby of the school, not the classroom hallways as to avoid traffic congestion and unnecessary interruptions when students are receiving end of day instructions and homework tips. As a general rule, **children will NOT be paged out of class after 3:15 p.m.** If your child knows he or she is being picked up, (write a note in the agenda to remind your child), he or she will meet you in the lobby after dismissal time.

Our secretaries strive for quality service to the community, but some requests from parents are very difficult to accommodate. Phone calls requesting that messages be delivered to students before the end of the day can be problematic in a busy school and in a busy office. After-school plans or babysitting arrangements should be made before the students come to school. Please remember that a school office not only responds to telephone calls but also responds to student injuries and illnesses, visitors in the school, bussing issues and secretarial timelines. A message could inadvertently be put aside to attend to another important concern.

LUNCHES AND ALLERGIES AWARENESS

It is very important that students come to school with healthy lunches and snacks. Please help them remember to bring a lunch every day. Due to food allergies, we do not encourage students to share their lunches with those who forget to bring theirs.



A reminder that we are a **peanut/nut-free school** and that there are also students and staff members with serious and sometimes life-threatening allergies. If your child has any significant allergies and requires medications on an on-going basis or as a one-time treatment (such as an epi-pen), please let the office know as soon as possible. In the interest of everyone's health and safety, please make CERTAIN that all snacks sent to school are nut-free and free of **all traces of nut products**. Thank you for assisting us in making our school safe for everyone.

Children will continue to be asked to reduce the amount of garbage generated by the lunches and snacks brought to school. Please continue to help their efforts by refraining from using plastic baggies, sending drinks in throw away containers, or sandwiches wrapped in foil or plastic films. At Lester B. Pearson P.S., we call this initiative: **Boomerang Lunches**. The concept is