

EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY—A SUCCESS

September 2011

THE CONNAUGHT CHRONICLE



PRINCIPAL: Mrs. S. Fehrman

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
Mrs. P. Nardangeli**

Connaught Public School

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<http://connaught.dsbni.org>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WELCOME TO THE 2011 - 2012 SCHOOL YEAR AT CONNAUGHT SCHOOL

I hope you had a healthy and relaxing summer with your children. It is with great excitement that we look forward to another great year at Connaught.

I'd like to welcome all the families who are new to the Connaught area. We are very proud of our school and our commitment to your child's education. I'm sure that as you visit and become involved with your child's education you'll find that it is a great place to educate your child.

Education should be an exciting partnership amongst the student, the parents, and the teacher. If all of these partners do their best I guarantee that every student will develop to his/her potential. Research indicates that children whose parents show a strong interest and support for their child's education will be more successful. If we expect our children to be the best they can

be, we owe it to them to be the best parents and teachers we can be! Never hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have a question, concerns or compliments. Ways to become involved include volunteering in a classroom, chaperone a trip, attend School Council Meetings, and attending special events, such as Open House, assemblies, sports activities, etc. The education of your child does not end at 3:10 p.m. Support what we do by discussing the events of the day. Never accept the answer "NOTHING" to your question, "What did you do at school today?" We do make every effort not to have our students sit perfectly still for five hours a day in eager anticipation of going home. Be sure to support the daily habit of reading by modeling reading for your child. Turn everyday activities such as a trip to the grocery store into a learning experience. With your support, this will be your child's best year at school. Have a wonderful year!!!

We would like to welcome, **Mr. Weston Nesbitt**, our new primary prep coverage teacher, **Mrs. Stacey Ramunno** and **Mrs. Kathy Maitland**, our new Early Childhood Educators in our ELP programs and **Mrs. Courtney Johnston** our Educational Assistant. Welcome back to **Mrs. Sharon Graham**, who is joining us again after the birth of her son last school year!

Many thanks to our custodians, **Mr. Dupuis** and **Mr. Scott**, and our secretary, **Mrs. Nardangeli**, who worked so hard over the summer to prepare the school for our opening week.

Shelley Fehrman



CONNAUGHT STAFF 2011-2012

Principal: Mrs. S. Fehrman

Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. P. Nardangeli

Learning Resource Teacher:

Mrs. D. McLean

ELP: Mr. D. Horton

Mrs. K. Maitland

ELP: Mrs. S. Taylor

Mrs. S. Ramunno

Grade 1: Miss L. Watson

Grade 1/2: Mrs. P. Garner

Grade 2/3: Mr. S. Masterson

Grade 3: Mrs. S. Tebbutt

Grade 4: Mr. T. Devlin

Grade 5: Mr. K. French

Grade 6: Mrs. T. Michel

Grade 7/8: Mr. S. Young

Grade 8: Mrs. M. Atack

French: Mr. M. Quinlan

Primary Prep: Mr. W. Nesbitt

Arts/Librarian: Mrs. L. Zimmerman

ESL: Mr. R. Liipere and Mrs. J. Bowman

Youth Counsellor: Mrs. L. Hasenack

Educational Assistants: Mrs. S. Graham,
Mrs. J. Schwenker and Mrs. C. Johnston

Custodian: Mr. Y. Dupuis

SPLIT GRADES

What do we really know about split grades? The definition is - a classroom situation when one teacher is responsible for teaching a class of students enrolled at two different grade levels (10 students in grade two and 15 in grade three). Dr. Joel Gajadharsingh, of the University of Saskatchewan, is a leading North American investigator of multigrade classes. The Canadian Education Association summarized his findings regarding multigrade classes and concluded that children educated in multigrade classes get just as good an education as in a single grade

classroom. Students learn as much in multigrade classes and their ability to learn and get along with other people is as good as or better than students in a single grade. It is important to remember that a class of twenty-five grade six students will have some students capable of learning at a grade eight level while other students in the same class may have a reading level at grade five. The classroom teacher must attempt to meet the needs of all levels of learning regardless of a split class situation or a straight grade. The following statements supported by research confirm that a split class placement for a child is a very positive experience. Split classes will:

- let students learn from each other
- provide models for younger students
- encourage students to work together
- help students become independent



BALANCED SCHOOL DAY BELL TIMES

School begins at 8:45 a.m and dismissal is 3:10 p.m. Supervision begins at 8:30. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:30 unless they are participating in a school activities.

8:45	Entry
8:50	Instructional Block 1
10:30	Nutrition/Fitness Break
11:10	Instructional Block 2
12:50	Nutrition/Fitness Break
1:30	Instructional Block 3
3:10	Dismissal

STUDENT AGENDAS

All Connaught students in Grades 1-8 are required to have a Connaught Agenda. The cost is **\$5.00**. The school is subsidizing the cost of the Premier Agendas. Agendas will be used daily in the classrooms and are an important tool for our students.



MEET THE STAFF BARBEQUE

Connaught will be hosting a Meet the Staff Barbeque and Open House on Wednesday, September 14th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Classrooms will be open from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Come and meet your child's teacher and join us for a barbeque.



LATES AND ABSENCES

It is very important that your child arrives at school on time. When children arrive late, it means that they have missed the introduction to a lesson and therefore may lack some understanding as to the content. Also, by arriving late into a classroom, a child disrupts the presentation of the lesson, which is unfair to the rest of the class. When a student is late, he/she must report to the office prior to going to the classroom to get a "late slip" to present to their teacher. If you know your child will be late, please contact the office. This will save a phone call from Mrs. Nardangeli to ensure your child's safety.

ENTRY AND EXIT DOORS

For safety reasons, all students are expected to use their proper entry and exit doors during the day. If you are picking up a student at our lunch break or home dismissal, please wait by their doors. Thank you for your cooperation.



KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE

All parents and visitors should report to the office when entering the school. If you must drop off money, lunch or trip forms, please give it to Mrs. Nardangeli at the office. They will make sure that your child is called to the office at an appropriate time. School volunteers must wear a badge when volunteering within the school. Thanks for keeping our kids safe!

CHOCOLATE MILK PROGRAM

The Connaught office will be offering chocolate milk each day beginning Monday, September 13. Students can purchase sheets of fifteen tickets at the office for \$12.00.



BREAKFAST/SNACK PROGRAM

Connaught's Breakfast Program will be changing this year. It will begin on Monday, September 12th at first nutrition break.

PARENT PARKING

Parents are reminded to avoid parking in the circle in front of the school, both before and after school. Our buses are running on a tight schedule this year, so we ask that parents park in the parking lots for the safety of our students. Just a reminder that we created an additional parking lot off of Ida Street for easier access.

MEDICATION

In order for medication to be dispensed at school, we need updated forms, signed by a physician. If your child requires medication at school, please ensure that the required form is sent into the office as soon as possible. The form may be picked up at the office. Medication may not be dispersed without a physician's signature.



CELL PHONE POLICY

The District School Board of Niagara and Connaught School recognizes the educational value of students utilizing electronic communication devices to enhance their learning through the responsible access to global information and communication. We further recognize the critical role that parents play in educating their children on the appropriate use of electronic communication devices and in monitoring their use of these devices. This partnership of parents and schools is essential in achieving success in ensuring appropriate use of this ever changing technology.

Technology continues to evolve, providing consumers with an array of sophisticated and inexpensive tools. Electronic communication devices are now widely marketed to young people who bring them to school. Electronic communication devices, while serving legitimate purposes, can also be used in an intrusive manner. The privacy, safety and dignity of others could be violated by the inappropriate use of audio and video recording devices. Communication devices also have the potential to be used to gain advantage through academic dishonesty or to interfere with the students' personal learning or the learning of others.

Electronic communication devices are disruptive if they are on in class, distracting the students' attention away from their primary focus, which is learning.

It is the policy of the District School Board of Niagara that cellular telephones, pagers, and similar types of communication devices owned and/or carried by students are to be turned off and are not to be used on school property. They are not to be used in private areas such as locker rooms and washrooms nor are they to be used where it interferes with the learning, privacy or safety of staff, students or others.

EARLY RELEASE DAY

Friday, September 23rd is an Early Release Day. Students will be dismissed at 12:00pm that day. Staff will be involved in professional activities. Also, Friday, October 7th will be a full P.A. Day. There will be no school for students that day.



DRESS CODE

I would like to remind students and parents of our school dress code. The students need appropriate dress for an elementary school environment, which consists of:

- appropriate footwear
- sandals or running shoes for school wear
- appropriate shorts
- neatly hemmed shorts (no short-shorts or cut offs)
- appropriate tops
- T-shirts must **NOT** have pictures or language that are offensive
- tops with straps that are at least 5 cm. in width (no spaghetti straps or mesh tops)

All shirts, pants, and tops must not expose the midriff. Thank you for adhering to these guidelines.



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 your child in September. Clinic dates and times will be announced through your child's school.

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.



CENTRAL CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Spaces still available

We offer planned educational opportunities for children 2.5 to 5 years of age.

Located on the lower level of Connaught School just past the JK/SK rooms.

Hours of operation are 7:30 to 6:00 – Monday to Friday

Catered lunches and nutritious snacks are served

Please call Debbie at 905-687-7393 for more information.

PIZZA DAYS

Pizza days will be held on the last Thursday of each month at lunch. We are continuing with our pre-order system. Both cheese and pepperoni pizzas are available to order, as well as Chocolate Milk. Pizza is \$1 per slice.

