



**ALLISTON UNION PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
211 Church Street North, Alliston, Ontario, L9R 0G3  
Phone 705-435-7391 / Safe Arrival Press 1 / Fax 705-435-2517  
allistonunion@scdsb.on.ca



*Katie Maxwell, Principal*

*Lynne Stewart, Vice Principal*

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## **SEPTEMBER MID-MONTH NEWSLETTER**

### **2018/2019**

The success of every student at Alliston Union Public School is our most important goal. Our Staff believe that when we focus on educating the whole child – academics, learning skills, personal-social skills, mental wellness, and character education – we can achieve SCDSB's vision of "A community of learners achieving full potential".

Staff and parents must work together to support our students as they work towards achieving their goals. We believe that a positive relationship built on mutual respect is the key. Please find below some helpful tips that we can all use to assist our students in achieving their **best year yet!**

- Ensuring students are ready to learn at the start of the school day – arriving on time for school and before the school bell rings. Students may arrive at school beginning at 8:45 a.m.
- Adopting a Growth Mindset. Students are being encouraged to add the word, "Yet" to their thoughts and dialogue. Instead of saying, "I can't do that.". Students are learning to develop a positive outlook by saying, "I can't do that, yet. I will keep working at it." Staff are committed to helping students achieve the goals that they set for themselves.
- Carefully listening to students as they share their experiences about school. Staff have the students' best interests in mind and we like to celebrate students' small and large milestones. From time to time, students may have a problem that they need help working through. Staff are available to have a phone conversation with a parent, before and after school as well as at the nutrition breaks. Together as a caring and respectful team, teachers and parents can work together to help a student in need. A positive relationship between home and school is one that we must all continually work towards for the benefit of our students. The Admin team is committed to being a support to help with that relationship.

### **School Council Elections**

Our first School Council meeting will be Monday, September 24th at 6:00 pm. If you wish to be a voting member of school council, nomination form is included with this newsletter or you can obtain a nomination form from the office. Nomination forms are due in by September 18<sup>th</sup>. The more hands helping to make our school the best, benefits our students immensely. Hope you will get involved!

### **Open House – Meet the Teacher**

Mark your calendar and come meet your child(ren)'s teachers. Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. This is an opportunity for your child to showcase their learning so far this school year.

### **School Picture Day**

October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> will be picture day. Remember to send your children with their brightest smiles.

Tentative schedule for both class photos and individual photos is as follows:

October 3: Kdg to Grade 5

October 4: Grade 6 to 8



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**Volunteers Always Needed**

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with the following activities; snack, breakfast, lunch programs, field trips, drivers for extra curricular activities, classroom reading, art, special programs, to name a few.

All adults helping in a school setting must have a Criminal Record check filed with the SCDSB. If you are interested in helping at the school at some time this year and have not already submitted a record check, please obtain a CBC/VSS request letter from the school office to take to the police department. **Please note**, the New Tecumseth OPP detachment is holding a “Criminal Record Check Blitz” on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. If you bring the letter from the school and the required two pieces of identification, the fee will be waived and the check will be completed on the spot.

Returning Volunteers: Every year an Offence Declaration needs to be signed and submitted before December 31<sup>st</sup> in order for your name to remain on the Approved Volunteers report. This year the Board is initiating a new online Volunteer Portal. We have been advised that the Board plans to provide each school with individualized letters containing your unique verification code and directions on how to complete your Offence Declaration online. Again, please DO NOT attempt to complete this task until such time that you receive your letter.

May we mention strongly at this time, that we are in need of volunteers to help with:

- Breakfast Program (requires help from 8:20 – 9:10 Mon, Wed, Fri)
- Snack Program (once per week)
- Lunch Fundraising Program (Tues &/or Thur around 12:30pm)

If you are available to help with any of the above, please call the school asap.



**Hot Lunch Orders/School Cash On-line**

We will once again be offering hot lunch orders (pizza & pitas) and milk beginning some time in October.(probably Tuesday & Thursday for hot lunch offers, daily for milk orders). Order forms will be sent home electronically and we hope that all participants will order and pay online. This will free up office staff from counting money, tabulating the orders, etc. More information will come home with the order forms once we have a chance to organize our hot lunch programs.

**Kiss & Ride/Staff Parking Lot**

We wish to remind parents that in the morning, if you are planning on exiting your vehicle in order to say goodbye to your child, you MUST find a parking spot. You may NOT park in the “Kiss & Ride” lane. Please be considerate of others waiting to drop off their child as well.



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On exiting the lot, EVERYONE must turn right (north) out of the lot during school start & dismissal times. The school buses have also been directed to follow this procedure as well. This procedure is to cut down on the amount of traffic in front of the school where children are walking. Remember, rules have been put in place for the SAFETY of your children. We would also like to point out that we are considered a “walking” school. Please encourage good physical habits by walking your child to school.

### **Medications – administering at school**

A reminder to those families whose child may require the administration of medication by school personnel to please return the completed forms accompanied by the medication immediately. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact the school office.

### **Scents in School**

Please be considerate of people who have sensitivity to perfumes. We ask that our school be a scent free safe haven for those people affected.

### **Terry Fox Run**

Students will be participating in a walk for the Terry Fox Foundation (date is yet to be determined). We are encouraging all students to bring in a “toonie for Terry”.

### **Lunch Hour (1:00 – 1:40 pm) Procedures**

We consider our second nutrition break to be considered “lunch time” for our students. Therefore, students are expected to be leaving the school to go home for lunch. The town has paid crossing guards on major street intersections for your child(ren)’s safety. We wish to highlight that the idea of students leaving school during this time is to go HOME for a hot lunch. We discourage students being allowed to leave school supervised grounds to play at the local park or to walk around the town with no supervision in place. We would also like to point out that at all other times during the school day a student must be signed out in the school office by an adult. Please talk to your child(ren) about the expectation at 2<sup>nd</sup> Nutrition Break to go straight home for lunch and to return promptly and directly to school at 1:40 pm.

### **Procedures help keep our school safe**

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it’s important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Emergency drill practices will occur at the end of September and into October. Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.



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- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
  - A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites ([www.facebook.com/SCDSB](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)), through local police and local media.
  - All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
  - Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** to enter the building. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, please be patient.** All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to **sign in** at the school office and wear **visitor identification**.
  - Staff and volunteers must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
  - We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
  - At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All Simcoe County District School Board schools **have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Thank you for your attention to these important start up messages.

Katie Maxwell  
Principal