



# Mathews Mustang News

## September 2011



At Mathews we believe in maintaining positive school S.P.I.R.I.T. and a commitment to excellence.

**S – Success    P – Passion    I – Integrity    R – Respect    I – Independence    T – Tolerance**

Principal: Simon Hancox

Administrative Assistant: Sherri Pahowski



### Principal's Message



Welcome Back! I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. You will notice some new faces at Mathews this year. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs. Yochim who will be teaching French

and prep coverage; Mrs. Beckett, our new Kindergarten class teacher; Mr. Collins teaching grade 5/6 and Mrs. Pozzobon returning to teach the Primary/Junior class. Also welcome to Mrs. Pahowski our new secretary. We wish them success in their new positions. September will prove to be a busy month at Mathews with special events and extra-curricular activities. Please help encourage your child/children to get involved whenever they can. We hope to see many of you at our Open House on Thursday, September 22, 2011.

I am looking forward to working with all of the students, parents and staff of Mathews school once again this year. As many of you know, I have an open door policy and encourage you to phone or come into the school and discuss any issues and/or concerns that may arise. I believe that our school should not only be a place where we educate your child but a place where we can come together as a community and support one another. In working together to ensure the success of all students and I am sure that we can accomplish great things. Have a great September!!!



### Summer H.E.A.T.



This summer at Mathews we had our summer program for 3 weeks. This program ran from July 11<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>. Students were involved in hands on activities and experiential learning.

Once again Student and parent feedback has been positive. I would like to thank all of the summer staff for all their hard work and dedication to ensure the success of the program. We hope to offer the program again next summer and I encourage all of our primary students to attend. Once again it was awesome!

### Open House Barbecue

Please join us on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> for our Open House Barbecue. A complimentary barbecue including hot dogs and drinks will be available on the front yard of the school from 5pm – 7pm. During the open house the school will be open for you to visit your child's classroom as well as meet the teachers and staff. Once again this year your child will be provided a "passport" with clues to the different areas of the school or different staff members. Fill up your passport and drop it off at the front door so that your child can enter to win a prize.

You must RSVP on the form provided in your welcome back package. Please return the form as soon as possible so we can determine the amount of food needed for this barbecue. Tickets will be sent home at a later date. See you there!

### ALLERGIES!!!



Please be advised there are a number of students attending our school this year with severe allergy which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. An anaphylactic reaction is an allergic reaction so severe that in some cases, it can be life threatening.

At this time, we are insisting that **no products containing nuts** be sent to the school and if these products are consumed at home that student wash their hands and brush their teeth thoroughly prior to arriving at school. It is crucial that we work together to ensure the safety of all students.

### Visitors to Our School



All visitors are welcome in our school. In the interest of student safety and security, ALL visitors (including parents and guardians) are asked to sign in at the office when visiting the school and wear a visitor's tag.

### Important Forms

You will notice that your child will bring home numerous documents during the first week of school. These forms contain important information that will help the school and your home prepare for the upcoming school year. We hope that you will give them careful attention and return them to the school as quickly as possible. Thank you for your attention and cooperation in these important matters.



### Parking Lot Safety



An on-going concern at our school is the safety of everyone. It is with this in mind that we offer suggestions to improve safety during pick-up and drop-off times. We thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping the bus loading zone in front of the school available for the school bus.

This no-parking zone is also important so that the crossing guard has a good line of sight up and down Southworth Street and it ensures that staff can better supervise the children safety. When dropping



students off in a vehicle, it is safest to do so by entering the north staff parking lot and dropping students off at the entrance to the playground. This ensures that they do not need to walk through traffic areas. Students should not be walking through the parking lot unless accompanied by an adult. At the end of the day, please make sure that your child is aware of where to meet you and remind him/her to cross Southworth and Ontario Street only with the crossing guard. Please do not park along the south side of the staff parking along the grass adjacent to the school. Also, please help us to set a good example by using the crossing guard when you are walking with your children. Once again we thank you for your cooperation.

### Class Organization



The classes have been organized according to the number of students we registered in each grade before school began. Due to movement of student over the summer and new registrations on the first day of school, some re-organization may be necessary over the next few days. We thank you in advance for your

patience and understanding should changes in your child's class occur.

### Student Agenda

Students in grades 1 – 8 will be bringing home an agenda. If properly used, the agenda will keep students on track and will help keep parents informed about classroom activities and upcoming events. Our expectation is that every student will learn to use the agenda effectively and that parents will regularly review and discuss the agenda with their child. It is also a Great avenue to communicate with your child's teacher. This month check the front pages of the agenda for more important school information, including the Mathews School Code of Conduct. **PLEASE NOTE:** Each student is asked to contribute **\$5.00** toward the cost of the agenda.



### School Photos



Life Touch Photographers will be at the school on Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> to take individual student photos,. All packages ordered, including retakes will be available in time for Christmas gift-giving.

### Professional Development & Early Release Days



The District School Board of Niagara recognizes the importance of professional development for your child's teachers (and principal!). Professional Development days are scheduled for **Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday May**

**18<sup>th</sup> and Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.** This year, this program will involve two early release days. These days are scheduled for **Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.** We appreciate your support in this matter as it is of great benefit to our students. The early release dismissal time will be **12:05p.m.**

### Balanced School Day

Once again this year, Mathews will be following a balanced school day model. School begins at 8:50am and concludes at 3:25pm. If you would like you child to go home for "lunch" that will be in the second fitness/nutrition break which is from 12:55 until 1:45. A form will be sent home for parents to sign giving their child permission to leave school during that time. Please return this form asap. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the school.



### Nutrition Program/Breakfast Club/Special Lunches

Our Nutrition Program and Breakfast Programs will once again be offered for the students here at Mathews School. Please look for more information to follow including a form to be completed if your child/children plan on participating in the Breakfast program. New to the school, no problem this is how it works - our nutrition program is held daily during our first nutrition break. Students are provided with healthy snacks. These snacks are available for all students, however students may choose to bring their own 'nut free' snacks. The



snacks provided are from 3 food groups usually consisting of a grain, fruit/vegetable and dairy.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Volunteers are needed for these programs to help prep and serve. If you are interested and would like to help us out,

please contact Mrs. Pahowski at the school asap.

### Milk Program

Milk is available for purchase daily during both breaks at the office. White milk sells for \$.75 and chocolate milk for \$1.00 per carton. These will be available in our Canteen Daily Starting the week of September 26<sup>th</sup>.



### Pizza Lunches

Check out the monthly calendars to see when we will be offering our pizza days. On the pizza days, no pre-orders are needed. Pizza is \$1.00 per slice. Just send your child in with the required amount of money and they can purchase their lunch at the school on those days. Our Pizza days are usually held on Wednesdays but some months may change so please consult your calendar.



### After School Programs

Starting in October, we will be offering a number of after school activities. We will be having an assembly to promote these activities and we encourage our students to get involved. The activity program reach all ages of our students and we also have included a literacy component called The Heifer Project to promote reading. Get involved!



## School Council

The Council meets approximately five times per year and supervision can be provided for younger children if necessary. School Council provides parents an opportunity to become more involved with the school. It is a great way to provide input into your child's education and school events. Research shows that the more involved parents are in their child's education, the better they perform at school. These meetings are open to any Mathews' community member and we welcome your participation and ideas. If you are interested in joining the School Council this year, our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. If you need supervision for your children, please contact the school at least two days before the meeting so that we can make arrangements.



## Mathews Canteen



Once again this year Mathews will offer a "nut free" healthy snack canteen. Students will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of items at a low cost at both nutrition breaks. Such items include juice boxes, granola bars, yogurt, milk (chocolate and white) and super yogurt'n juicy ice treats. All proceeds raised will help defer school trip costs. The canteen will open shortly, a price list will be sent home soon.

## Terry Fox Run

We will once again be participating in the Terry Fox Run for Cancer. This event will take place on the afternoon of September 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:45pm. Pledge forms will be coming home in the next few weeks. We look forward to this worthwhile event.



## 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.



## 2011 – 2012 Mathews Staff List

### Principal:

Mr. Simon Hancox

### Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. S. Pahowski

### Head Caretaker:

Mr. M. Chunick

### Teachers:

#### JK

Mrs. S. Hauser (Mrs. Pennlington)

#### SK

Mrs. C. Beckett

#### Grade 1

Mrs. S. Gotfryd

#### Grade 2

Ms. K. Maiden

#### Grade 3

Mr. D. Mueller

#### Grade 4

Mrs. B. Battiste

#### Grade 5-6

Mr. O. Collins

#### Grade 7-8

Mrs. S. Grieco

#### Primary, Junior Class

Mrs. M. Pozzobon

### French

Mrs. R. Yochim

### Learning Resource

Ms. C. Fortin

### Teacher/Librarian

Mrs. T. Khan

### Itinerant Instructional Coach

Mrs. J. Rice

### Educational Assistants

Ms. Schisler, Ms. D. Brousseau and Ms. Rozon

### Child Care Worker

Mrs. R. O'Grady

### Fitness/Nutrition Break Break Supervisors

Mrs. S. Houser  
Mrs. S. Rogers  
Mrs. T. Leger

### Night Cleaners

Mr. B. Turner  
Mrs. M. Farkas

## Upcoming Events

Pizza Day begins  
Open House BBQ  
Early Release Day  
Nutrition Program begins  
Breakfast Program begins  
School Council Meeting  
Terry Fox Run

Wednesday, Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Thursday, Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Friday, Sep 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Monday, Sep 26<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, Sep 26<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, Sep 28<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

Please remember we are a  
"NUT FREE SCHOOL"

