



# Pioneer Park Public School



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Glenn A. Kitamura, Principal

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September 2014

Dear Families:

I would like to this opportunity to welcome everyone to a new academic year at Pioneer Park. This year brings major change in procedure that all families need to be familiar with. In December 2012, the Provincial Government announced its intention to enhance security measures in elementary schools across Ontario. The Safe Welcome initiative involves the locking of all doors in elementary schools.

Implementation of this initiative begins at Pioneer Park on the first day of school. All visitors (parents, vendors, central Board Staff) to our school will access the school using an intercom system that is located at "A" door (closest to our parking lot). At this entrance there are two call stations. One is marked "Main Office" and the other is marked "Daycare/Youth Development." Push the appropriate call button and wait "buzzed in" to the building. If you are coming to school during the regular school day, please report to the office upon entry. If you are going to drop-off or pick-up a child from Daycare or Youth Development programs, please make your way to the program area. Please be aware that you may experience delays when you arrive at the school and that between the hours of 11:30 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:15 – 2:00 p.m. your call may not be answered as adult coverage may not be available in the Main Office. Please plan accordingly for delays and try to avoid the times listed.

It is recognized that having all school doors locked will be new for our school community. Your cooperation and patience as we implement this new program are greatly appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Chanthalya for their efforts to ensure our building is in tip-top shape for the arrival of students. I would also like to thank teachers who have been planning over the summer and have been into the school to set up their classrooms for the arrival of students. The staff at Pioneer Park is truly committed to provide the best possible learning experience for all students.

We encourage all parents to become actively engaged in their children's education. Get involved – read with your child, volunteer, communicate with your child's teacher and the school, and encourage them to do their best at everything they do. With your encouragement and support we can help ensure that each child experiences academic success. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, our Special Education Resource Teacher, Ms. Newman, our Head Secretary, Mrs. Weinert, or myself.

On the first day of school, your child will be coming home with a package of information. This package is smaller than in previous years as much of the information has now been placed on-line. Please review each sheet carefully, return those forms that need to be returned and keep all other material in a safe place for future reference.

On behalf of the staff of Pioneer Park, we look forward to a great year of working and learning together.

Glenn A. Kitamura  
Principal

The following information needs to be read in order to establish our school routines. Please read and follow instructions on the reverse side of this page and as always, please call if you have questions.

The attached **DATA VERIFICATION sheet is very important** and needs to be: checked for accuracy, changes made if necessary, signed (on the last page at the bottom) and returned **tomorrow, Wednesday, Sept. 3**. Please number family and contact information in priority sequence. Home phone numbers, business numbers, babysitter numbers are all very important when we have an urgent situation with your child. Please update the office, in writing, immediately if there are changes in contact information.

### **General Reminders:**

#### **School Day**

Our school day begins at 9:05 AM and ends at 3:25 PM. We will have two nutrition breaks throughout the day. The following schedule may help to summarize our times:

<b>School Start time:</b>	<b>9:05</b>	<b>School Finish time:</b>	<b>3:25</b>
<b>Nutrition Break One:</b>	<b>11:05 – 11:45</b>	<b>Nutrition Break Two:</b>	<b>1:15 – 1:55</b>

**Nutrition Breaks:** Twenty minutes in the classroom, followed by twenty minutes outside (or extra-curricular activities). Teachers will supervise each part of the school (A, C, D-wing and portables). Student leaders may be designated to each class. Students will have lighter snacks (e.g. Drink, fruit, granola bar, cheese and crackers etc) during the first nutrition break, and their larger “lunch” during the second break. Families who wish to have their children go home for lunch may do so during this second break. Please advise us in writing, otherwise all students are expected to remain at school.

Please plan carefully for two nutrition breaks. Involve your children in this planning and preparation. “Lunch One” and “Lunch Two” could be marked in their lunch bag or items could be labeled. **Our goal is to have two healthy nutrition breaks throughout the day. We are striving to be an ECO school at the gold level. We can achieve this if students bring their lunches in reusable containers to minimize waste.**

#### **Breakfast Program**

The Nutrition for Learning Breakfast program continues at Pioneer Park. It is an excellent way for our children to begin their day. All students in Grades 1 to 6 are welcome to participate. We plan to start the Breakfast Club on Wednesday, September 17. Forms are included in this information package. Please consider volunteering for our Breakfast program 7:45 – 9:15am. Breakfast Club currently runs on WED, THURS. and FRIDAYS ONLY.

#### **Perfume, Cologne & Fragrances**

Many staff and students have SEVERE reactions to fragrances. Entering the building could trigger a serious life-threatening response. Please DO NOT enter the building if you are wearing cologne, perfume or fragranced items. We will meet you at the door if necessary. Call the school at 519 748-0142 if you need assistance.

#### **Nuts & Nut Products**

We have a few students with severe allergies to nuts and nut products. Please refrain from sending these types of snacks with your child. Please do not send nut free items that resemble peanut butter.

#### **Dogs**

Please keep dogs off of school property; while they may be friendly for you, students can be quite fearful of them.

#### **Other Routines**

- When a child is late, please make sure you enter and sign in the child. Enter via “A” door and sign in (or out) from the office. Children are always advised to walk with a buddy to school. An adult is to accompany kindergarten-aged children.
- Please keep the magnet with our ***attendance line*** number in a handy place, 519 **570-8115 X 3632** (24 hours) Always call in LATES or ABSENCES.
- If your child requires medication, a form must be completed at the office before we can give the child medication, prescription medication only that is clearly labeled with the child’s name.
- School Council meets monthly. Our first meeting is on September 16, at 7 pm. We welcome everyone to our meeting. Meeting dates are published in our monthly newsletter and on the website.
- All families are invited to attend our Meet the Teacher Night, Thursday September 11, at 5:00 – 7:30 pm. The Book Fair will also be open!!