Welcome to our New School

It has been an exciting time welcoming your children to our brand new school. It has been a great two weeks of learning, growing and finding our way as a group of learners. We are grateful to work in a community with such supportive and positive families who work alongside us each day. Thank you for being patient with us and recognizing that we are all doing the best we can to ensure your child has a great first experience in their new school.

The teachers and staff of Nelson Mandela are a caring and collaborative group of educators who have been excited to get to know both you and your child. We recognize there will be challenges and unknowns as we find our way, but through open-dialogue, and collaborative conversation, we will get there.

As a staff, we are committed to the following:

♥ Respecting and responding to individual needs and learning styles.
♥ Collaborating with our colleagues, students and parents.
♥ Participating in on-going Professional Development.
♥ Communicating regularly with parents about their child’s progress in school.

We know that students will be most successful when parents, students and teachers work together for student success. However, your child’s teacher should be the first line of contact. As an administrative team, we are here to support you and your children, but the person who will have the biggest impact in your child’s life is their class teacher.

Morning and Afternoon Routines

Student safety is our highest priority. We recognize that we all have busy mornings, but it is critical that we establish clear and consistent routines.

1. Kiss and Ride: please enter the parking lot to the right. Please do NOT cut ahead of other cars in the Kiss and Ride lane. We will be unloading 8 cars at a time. Please wait your turn and then pull through. Please be careful to not hit our signs as they have been accidently damaged.

2. The Round-about is NOT a drop-off or Stopping Zone. Children should only be dropped off in Kiss and Ride or park in a designated spot.

3. School Buses will use the left side of the parking lot. This parking lot is closed! There is no parking in the morning or at the end of the day in this lot.

4. If the parking lot to the right is full, families will need to park across the street on Fandor Way and walk across with your children.

5. If your child is late, please ensure that you park your car in a parking spot and walk them into the office to be signed in.

Please visit our school website to read about the following:

Understanding your child’s OSR
Procedures to help keep students safe at school
Peel Board Trustees
Protect your kids and your finances
Kobo offers special rates

This will be the only hard-copy. It will be available on-line each month. Please subscribe to our website.

September 2014

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Dates to Remember

Terry Fox Walk
Bring your toonies
Monday September 22
Re-Organization Day
NO SCHOOL
Tuesday September 23
Community Feast 5-6 pm
Class Tour 6-7 pm
Thursday October 1
School Council
Tuesday October 8 @ 6pm
Professional Development Day
NO SCHOOL
Friday October 10

There is no passion to be found playing small – in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.”
Nelson Mandela
**School Hours**

The school day begins at 8:50 a.m. and ends at 3:10 p.m.

**SUPERVISION STARTS AT 8:35 A.M.**

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CHILDREN ALONE BEFORE 8:35 A.M. AS THERE IS NO SUPERVISION.**

**Daily Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>8:50 - 9:30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>9:30 - 10:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPA</td>
<td>10:10 - 10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutri-break</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>11:10 - 11:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDK Lunch</td>
<td>11:30 - 12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>11:50 - 12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 5</td>
<td>12:30 - 1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutri-break</td>
<td>1:10 - 1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 6</td>
<td>1:50 - 2:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 7</td>
<td>2:30 - 3:10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUPERVISION ENDS AT 3:25 P.M.**

If there are children who are not picked up, they will be brought into the main office. Please park your car in a designated spot to pick-up your child.

In an extenuating circumstance, please contact the school if you will be late to let us know.

**Communicating at School**

We believe that clear and effective communication is important. Therefore, we use a variety of tools to keep parents informed, including: newsletters, flyers, school web-site, teacher web sites, and the phone. In fact, you may have already received a telephone call from our Automated "Synervoice" system. We will be using these methods to remind parents of important events at Nelson Mandela.

**Introducing, the Staff of 2014-2015:**

We are very excited about our new year at Nelson Mandela. The following teachers will be working with and supporting your children this year:

**Kindergarten:**

K1—Ms. Lepard / Ms. Richardson
K2—Ms. Ryzyj / Ms. Dodds
K3—Ms. Wadee-Dantiwala
Ms. McDonald
K4—Ms. Bester / Ms. Feraday
K5—Ms. Alli / Ms. Shakoor
K6—Ms. Lecompte / Ms. Bennett
K7—Ms. Severinac / Ms. Sayers

**Kindergarten Coverage—Mr. Luu**

**Grade 1:**

1A—Ms. Prophet
1B—Ms. Coseni
1C—Ms. Ahmad
1D—Ms. Ferreira
1E—Ms. Reutas
1FI—Mr. Grogan
2FI—Ms. Winter

**Grade 2:**

2A—Ms. Brown
2B—Ms. Khan
2C—Ms. Smith
2D—Ms. Playter
2/3—Ms. George

**Grade 3:**

3A—Ms. Nash
3B—Ms. Burroughs
3C—Ms. Slauwghite
3D—Ms. Avramidis
3E—Ms. McAnulty

**Grade 4:**

4A—Ms. Elkassem
4B—Ms. Vicars
4C—Ms. Varghese
4D—Ms. MacDonald

**Grade 5:**

5A—Ms. Mann
5B—Mr. Pollon

**Support Staff:**

Mr. Taylor/Ms. Edwards/Ms. Brown/Mrs. Manikoth

**French:** Ms. MacEachern / Ms. Deng

**Music:** Ms. Setton

**Library:** Ms. Martin

**Physical Education:** Ms. Soochit and Mr. Jatana

**Educational Resource Facilitators:** Ms. Hunter / Ms. McLean / Ms. Sharma / Ms. Compierchio / Ms. Lugos / Ms. Freingruber

**Behavior Teaching Assistant:** Ms. Manson

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**School Council Nomination Forms can be found in the office**

Our first school council meeting is Wednesday October 8, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the staffroom. All parents are welcome.
Medical Forms

Parents need to have the Administration of Prescribed Medication Form signed by the attending physician and parent, and submitted to the office prior to their children being able to receive the medication.

Medications need to be in the ORIGINAL prescription bottle with the student’s name on it and along with the dosage and frequency written on the label.

Students with Allergies

Parents of students who have allergies (anaphylaxis), asthma, epilepsy, diabetes etc., will need to arrange an appointment time to come in to meet with the teacher and administration to develop a care plan for your child.

Parents are reminded that Nelson Mandela remains a nut-free school and the sharing of snacks is strictly forbidden (this includes no birthday treats). More information will be available in your child’s agenda.

Extended Vacations

If you are planning for your child to be absent from school for an extended vacation, please write a letter to the school, addressed to Ms. deMelo, Principal and include details of the absence and dates.

Attendance and Safe Arrival

If your son/daughter is going to be absent from school please call the school before classes begin at (905) 595-1655 to report the absence, or in the evening for the next day’s absence. You can leave a message on the school’s answering machine after regular school hours. Please leave the student’s name, teacher’s name, reason for absence and the length of time the student will be absent, as this will assist the office staff with Safe Arrival.

Visitors - Signing “In/Out”

Procedures at Student Services

There will be times throughout the school year when parents need to come to Nelson Mandela to drop off something for their child(ren), to bring their child(ren) to school or to pick up their child(ren) for an appointment. To ensure the safety of all students, it is important that everyone follow the procedures outlined below when visiting the school.

1) Visitors (parents, family members, and other community members) are asked to enter and exit the school by the front doors.

2) No parent/adult/visitor should enter the school at any time without signing in/out in office and obtain/return a visitor’s badge. The teacher should be expecting your arrival. Please remember to wear the visitor’s badge while on school premises.

3) Parents are required to sign in/out their child(to/from school.

4) Students are to meet their parent/caregiver in the main office if being signed out of school. Please send a note in your child’s agenda stating that he/she is to be signed out at a particular time for a given reason.

5) When dropping off academic items for a student, parents should leave the item with the secretary who will call the student to the office to pick up the item.

The Lunch Table

A table has been placed in the front foyer for lunches. Please ensure that your child’s name is on the lunch container. Classes are not to be interrupted for students to pick up lunches. Please let students know in the morning if they should expect to have a lunch dropped off as they are responsible to come down and pick up their lunch. Please do not wait in the hall-way as this is to ensure the safety of all students.
Kiss and Ride Reminders

Parents are requested to follow the directions being given by staff who are on Kiss ‘n’ Ride duty. Please follow the signs. Drop off only in the kiss and ride lane.

In order to ensure the safety of students and staff, we cannot allow cars to be parked or stopped as this impedes the flow of traffic coming in from Chinguacousy.

We must keep the driveway clear for emergency vehicles. Parents are asked to circle around or park in a designated spot or on a side street and walk your child.

Parents of Walkers:

Should walk their child to the correct entrance. Parents are NOT to be walking their child through the school to their classroom.

Please cross the street at the crosswalks following the traffic signals.

Please use the pink crosswalks in the parking lot.

If we all work together, we can keep our children safe.

Bussing and Bus Assignments

Student Transportation Services for the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has assigned students to specific bus routes.

Please review with your child the importance for him/her to remain on the same bus and not to switch to an alternate bus because of “convenience, friends or timing.” This is to ensure your child’s safety, as we cannot have overcrowding on the buses. As we are trying to ensure no student crosses a busy road, the school must know the exact bus your child takes to/from school on a daily basis. The school cannot allow students to switch buses, or allow for students who normally do not take the bus to be on a friend’s bus so that he/she can work on school projects or attend “social events” outside of school hours. Alternate arrangements must be made by the parent.

As you would know, the bussing is TEMPORARY. You will receive notice as to when the bussing will be coming to an end.

Birthday Treats

Parents are asked to please NOT send food or loot bags for your child’s birthday. You may want to send pencils/erasers/bookmarks etc or dedicate a book for your child’s classroom library to celebrate their child’s special day. There is additional information outlined in your child’s agenda.

Forms to be SIGNED

- Media Release Form
- Digital Citizenship Form
- Walking Form
- Insurance Form—accept / decline

Thank-You

Thank you for your support and flexibility over the past two weeks. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to support the success of your child. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us, as we work collaboratively as a team.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead.

Ms. deMelo and Ms. Hart

Reflection on the past two weeks of Learning:

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela