

# Welcome to North Dundas Intermediate School

North Dundas  
Intermediate  
School  
www.nddhs.ca

613-448-2328

## Thank you for choosing NDIS

September 2011

My name is Debbie Banks and I am the Principal for North Dundas Intermediate School. I would like to welcome each of you to our school and I invite you to drop by or call at any time if you have concerns, questions or ideas.

The purpose of this first newsletter is to try and answer some of the questions you may have as a parent. I have three teens of my own and I know that sometimes we don't get all of the information we are looking for! I will be sending home a monthly newsletter to keep you informed as well. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, this will help us reduce our paper use.

The students and staff had a busy but exciting first week. The staff are taking many approaches to getting to know your children so that they can program in a way that meets the needs of your child. Each day the students feel more confident in what they have learned about their new school setting. We have seen success with opening locks, meeting new friends and staff, sharing what they know about their own learning style and navigating around the large building. Students are comfortable contacting staff members if they have questions and the staff is demonstrating care and concern about each of the children



Lockers and locks were a hurdle students overcame in the first week!

so that their initial experience at North Dundas is positive.

As parents and educators, we share a common interest—your child. Staff will be making frequent contact with you and I invite you to make contact with us at any time with any information that will help make both your child's and your experience positive and memorable.

### What About?

**Cell phones and electronics:** Students are permitted to use cell phones in their free time between classes. Respect and etiquette are expected when communicating with friends. All teachers establish rules for use in their own classrooms.

**Hats:** Students are permitted to wear hats in hallways, outside and in the cafeteria. Each teacher will establish rules in their classroom for hats. Students will be asked to remove hats for specific events out of respect.

**Gum:** Students are permitted to chew gum in their free time. Each teacher establishes classroom rules pertaining to gum in class.

**Students are expected to be respectful of the learning and work environment at all times.**

## CHIPS: Creating Hope, Innovation, People and Success

Through increased time with students in the NDIS panel, our commitments to you are the following:

- To provide all students with a safe and caring learning environment
- To become familiar with each student's hopes, dreams and future goals
- To provide students with opportunities to clarify their goals
- To provide students with opportunities that will make them aware of a range of options available to them
- To provide students with learning experiences and projects where they can make personal connections between themselves and the Ontario curriculum
- To provide students with extra curricular opportunities to help students make healthy lifestyle

## Mrs. Banks Welcome Message for Students

During recent visits to each classroom, I shared the following expectations and information for students:

**Our goal is to get to know each student and learn about their interests and career aspirations.**

Through experiences and opportunities we want students to share their hopes, dreams and plans so that we can create experiences and opportunities that will allow them to become the best in their chosen fields .

**Respect for learning, teaching, each other and property:** Each student learns in a different way. Students need to be respectful of one another's styles of learning and behave in a manner that allows teachers to teach and others to learn. Our custodians

prepare our school each day for learning so that students have a safe, clean school. Students need to respect the work that custodians do and not create additional work. There are many garbage cans available for students to place their garbage. Intentionally damaging property leads to unnecessary expenses that takes away from resources available to students' programs.

**Tolerance, Patience & Being Open Minded:** Students need to develop the skills of tolerance, fairness and patience. Sometimes learning may not come as quickly as they expect of themselves—they need to be kind to themselves and be patient. They will work with many students who may have

different interests than them. In addition to respect, they need to be tolerant of one another's differences. This is a new school year in a new school setting—things will be different. Be open minded, tolerant and patient with change. You may just find something you didn't know about yourself or the world around you.

**Ask questions and use supports available:** If students have a question, there are many staff to help them. They just need to ask; there is no such thing as a silly question. My goal is to be able to call each student by their first name and know something significant about them. Students should not feel alone as there are teachers, Mrs. Hess or Mrs. Banks who can help them

## A Day in the Life of North Dundas Intermediate

**7:55—8:10:** Buses arrive and students are met by Intermediate teachers on duty both at the bus stop and upstairs in the hallways. Students use the staircase designated for Grades 7s and 8s only to get upstairs. Students go to their lockers and get materials for their morning classes.

**8:15—9:35:** Students are in classes. Blocks of learning time are larger to permit students to explore topics in further detail. Students will be experiencing more projects that will be completed in class for a variety of learning purposes.

**9:35—9:40:** Nutrition Break. Students are free to have a morning snack at their lockers and visit with friends under the supervision of staff members. We will be having a breakfast program set up for students who do not have healthy snacks with them. All students will be welcome to access the snacks.

**9:40—11:00** Students are in classes with the same teacher as their first block.

**11:00—11:05** Students are escorted by their teacher to the cafeteria where they eat lunch at tables with their

friends. Students take their coats, hats, ballgloves etc with them as they will exit directly from the cafeteria for recess. Students are expected to leave the cafeteria in a clean manner, so that the cafeteria is ready for secondary students later on in the morning.

**11:25:** Students are escorted by a supervising Educational Assistant to the doors closest to the cafeteria. This allows students the maximum time outside as they don't need to travel back upstairs to get coats, etc. Students take their lunch bags outside and place them along the wall while they are meeting with friends. Healthy lunches are available for purchase.

**11:45** Students and the supervising Educational Assistants enter the building and use the stairs for Grades 7 and 8 students. Students go to their lockers and get all materials needed for afternoon classes.

**11:45—1:00:** Students are with a different teacher for another large block of learning time

**1:00—1:05:** Afternoon break for students at their lockers under the super-

vision of teachers on duty in hallways.

**1:05-2:15:** Students are in class with same teacher as first afternoon block.

**2:15** Students exit upstairs under supervision of teachers upstairs and downstairs to assist with boarding buses. Buses park in the same order each day so students can now easily locate their bus and driver.

**2:25:** All buses leave yard from west entrance of school. Students who are being picked up wait at the front of the building after letting their teacher know they are not taking the bus.

**Other:**

All students taking Core French have Core French one period per day.

All students have one period of Music on Tuesday or Wednesday with Mr. Boileau.

All students have gym everyday with one of their teachers. They change in the change rooms attached to the large gymnasium.

O Canada & Announcements take place at **9:27** daily.



## Intermediate vs Secondary Daily Schedules

Intermediate Schedule

8:15—9:35	Period 1
9:35—9:40	Break
9:40—11:00	Period 2
11:00—11:05	Travel time to cafeteria
11:05—11:45	Lunch & Recess
11:45—1:00	Period 3
1:00—1:05	Break
1:05—2:15	Period 4

Grades 9-12 Schedule

8:15—9:30	Period 1
9:30—9:35	Break
9:35—10:50	Period 2
10:50—11:00	Nutrition Break
11:00—12:15	Period 3
12:15—1:00	Lunch
1:00—2:15	Period 4

Students in Grade 7 and 8 are under the supervision of their classroom teachers or Educational Assistants when moving through the hallways or outside for recess.

### Are you interested in volunteering at NDIS this year?

We are always looking for parents, grandparents and community members who can add value to the programs that our students experience.

If you have any of the following, we are interested in hearing from you:

- Interest in learning more about how the intermediate student learns
- Interest and/or skills in a particular area such as a hobby you do or an experiences you can

share with students

- Interest in helping out with special trips, events etc
- Willingness to donate some of your time, energy and care for students
- Interest in reading with students or working with small groups of students on special projects

According to the policy of the Upper

Canada District School Board, anyone who volunteers in any way and interacts with students must have a current Criminal Background Check completed by our local police department. The school will cover the cost of having the Criminal Background Check completed. Please contact the office for the forms necessary to complete the Criminal Background Check. We would ask that all paperwork be handed in by **October 31, 2011** for this school year



### What value will be added to my child's school experience as a result of being at North Dundas Intermediate School?

**Music:** We have hired a very qualified music teacher with expertise not only in concert band instruments but also guitars and drumming. Mr. Boileau and Mr. Pereira (Grade 9-12 music) are working together to invite any interested Grade 7 and 8 students to join the school concert band. They will perform at local retirement homes and other events.

**Sports:** Mrs. Green (Grade 9-12 Phys Ed) is working with our staff to coordinate experiences for our Grade 7 and 8 students. Teams such as Cross Country are already co-ordinating practices so that students can meet other students under the supervision of staff members

**Science:** Staff who teach science in both the Grade 9-12 panel and the 7-8

panel have already been making contact to provide students with experiences where they will use the science labs and extensive science equipment.

**English & Math:** These 2 departments will work together to look at EQAO data and how each panel can provide students with experiences that will enrich their literacy and numeracy development.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

All parents are welcome to attend our first School Council meeting of the 2011-2012 school year.

**Date:** Thursday September 22  
**Time:** 7:00 PM—9:00 PM  
**Location:** Library

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

All students will have their photos taken on **Friday September 16, 2011.**

Students should arrive at school prepared for their photo to be taken.

.Students are asked to NOT wear green. Watch for information coming home about purchasing photo packages.

### *Staff List for North Dundas Intermediate School*

*2011-2012*

<i>Mrs. Debbie Banks</i>	<i>Principal</i>
<i>Mme. Nicole Touchette</i>	<i>Core French &amp; 7-216</i>
<i>Ms. Jacquie VanderMeer</i>	<i>7-8 226 &amp; 7-216</i>
<i>Mr. Ab Carr</i>	<i>7-218 and 7-211</i>
<i>Mrs. Rhonda Deighton</i>	<i>7-211 and 7-218</i>
<i>Mrs. Gina Reid</i>	<i>8-220 and 8-222</i>
<i>Mrs. Michleine Cloutier</i>	<i>8-222 and 8-220</i>
<i>Mme. Francoise Moise</i>	<i>8-212 and 7-8-226</i>
<i>Ms. Kelsey Thomson**</i>	<i>7-216 and 8-212</i>
<i>Mr. Robert Boileau</i>	<i>Music (Tues &amp; Wed)</i>
<i>Mrs. Kelly Hess</i>	<i>Learning Resource Coach</i>

*\*\* Ms. Thomson is replacing Ms. Daphne Weyermars who is on leave at this time.*

## PARENT SPACE

In order to serve you better this year, I will often place a section in the newsletter where you can pose questions or make comments. If you like something, we would love to hear it. If you are troubled by something and it is impacting your child's learning, we need to hear about it. I will answer questions in the newsletter or with a return phone call.

1. I would like to receive the monthly newsletter via email. My email address is:

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2. Parents' questions, share thoughts, ideas and stories:

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3. Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_