



Briarcrest Banner

Volume 5, Issue 5

January, 2012

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly. As your new principal, I am honoured to continue in the fine tradition of excellence Briarcrest has established. I view myself to be the instructional leader in this building, and am excited to work with such an engaged and knowledgeable staff. I look forward to working with the students and families to support your child's success. The message I have given to students this week is: ***Stay Safe, Work Hard and Be Nice.*** It is my belief that this combination of academic skills, hard work and strong social skills are the 21st century skills needed for success.

Jackie Stafford, incoming principal

Bus & School Cancellations

Severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation or, in extreme conditions, close schools. In the event transportation is cancelled or schools are closed, the local media will be informed by 6:00 a.m. Tune into your local radio and

television stations for the latest information. If weather conditions become extreme after students are in school, a decision to close schools will be made by 11:00 a.m. and broadcast by noon. In this case, elementary students will remain in the school until they are picked up by a parent or parent designate.

It is recommended that parents/guardians:

1. Keep children at home if weather conditions appear to be extreme;
2. Become familiar with the Severe Weather procedures on the Board web site at www.tdsb.on.ca;
3. Listen to designated radio stations for school closures beginning at 6:30 a.m. or for possible early closing at noon;
4. Provide the school with emergency telephone numbers;
5. Be prepared to pick your child up or make arrangements for the welfare and safety of your child if required.

Trustee:

Chris Glover

416-397-3106

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Superintendent:

Susan Winter

Principal

Jackie Stafford

Cold Weather Warnings:

It's hard to imagine after the mild winter we've had so far, but we do anticipate that we may have some real winter yet!! We are constantly monitoring the weather conditions as reported on local news stations. Students are kept indoors when the temperature is extremely low and it becomes unsafe to spend an extended period of time outside. However, most days are tolerable and students are expected to go out at recess. Please make sure that your child is prepared to be outside in the cold weather. The school rule is that they are to wear whatever outdoor clothing they have brought with them.

Winter Safety

During the winter months, the small hill behind the bike rack becomes very icy and dangerous. Students are not permitted to slide down this hill during the school day as they can get caught in the fence.

The adventure playground is usually closed during most of the winter months due to ice accumulation.

Each morning and at home time, the hallways are extremely congested with children taking off or putting on their winter clothes.

Adding parents to this mix creates havoc in the hallways. Although we understand your desire to help your child with his/her winter clothing, this support interferes with teachers' classroom routines and school safety procedures. Preparing for transitions is a key learning opportunity in your child's day. Developing independence and life skills are essential components to your child's future success. Your child independently dresses before each recess break.



Parents are more than welcome to wait between the exit doors in order to stay warm.

Grade 5 Ski Trip

Due to lack of snow the ski trip set for January 18 is cancelled.

We will be issuing refunds on March 9, after the final ski date. Hopefully, we will have some snow for the next two dates!!!

Kindergarten Registration

Children are eligible for junior or senior kindergarten in September of the same calendar year they turn four (JK) or five (SK). We are registering children born in 2008. Registration is being held at Briarcrest on Friday, February 24th between 8 & 11:00 a.m. and Monday, February 27th between 12:30 & 6:00 p.m. Call Briarcrest

Junior School at 416-394-6180 to schedule your registration time.

Please bring proof of address, proof of birth date, landed immigrant papers, health card, and proof of immunization with you when registering. If you are not able to attend one of these dates, you may register your child at any time during the school year.

We would appreciate your informing interested neighbours of our kindergarten registration. We look forward to welcoming new families to our Briarcrest community. We are currently scheduled to move to full day kindergarten beginning in September 2012.

Homework Tip:

Set up a homework routine that includes a consistent location and time for your child to do their homework. Make sure that they have the supplies they need and that it is in a quiet location away from distraction.

**Computer Safety:**

Police recommend that you keep family computers in the more public spaces in your home. This allows you to look over your child's shoulder when they are on-line and ensure that they are using safe internet practices. Several grade five students at Briarcrest tell us that they have Facebook accounts. Please note that Facebook is created for 13 years plus. Our board statistics tell us that most bullying that happens once students go to middle school, is

on-line. We strongly discourage you from allowing your child to create a Facebook account until they are much older. If you do choose to allow this activity, we would suggest that you have their password and that you monitor their on-line activity frequently.

Videotaping

Please refrain from videotaping student activities on school trips or activities, as there are several parents who have not signed media release forms.

