



## Principal's Message

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Welcome back Briarcrest families! It is hard to believe how quickly the summer months flew by. If you are new to Briarcrest, we are delighted that you have chosen to join our learning community.

Briarcrest Junior School is a vibrant, active community that prides itself on excellence, hard work, and involvement. We have a team of knowledgeable and caring staff who work together to implement a stimulating program for our students. We all take pride in the meaningful partnership that exists between the parents and the staff.

We believe a school environment that is welcoming and nurturing enhances school spirit and pride. Opportunities are provided for students to apply their learning, not only in the classroom but also in different areas within the school. Students are encouraged to become involved, follow through on their responsibilities, act as good role models, and above all, adopt a positive attitude towards learning.

Special welcome to our new staff members: Ms. McKelvey (Grades 1/2), Ms. Wittenberg (Autism Teacher), Mrs. Page (Education Assistant), and Ms. Rudkin (Child and Youth Worker). Congratulations to Madame Guetter who welcomed baby Pace into her family during the summer.

Best wishes for a successful year.

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### Mrs. Klein

As many of our Briarcrest families know, Mrs. Klein was absent last year due to a lengthy illness. In the spring, we were informed that she was in remission and would be returning to her Grade 1/2 position. Unfortunately, during the summer, Mrs. Klein discovered that she needs ad-

ditional treatment and will not be able to join us as was expected.

Families wishing to extend their support can email her at [hhklein@yahoo.com](mailto:hhklein@yahoo.com). She checks her emails regularly and thoroughly enjoys reading words of encouragement. Get well cards

and sentiments can also be dropped off at the office and will be delivered to her directly.

As a Briarcrest Community we extend our heart felt well wishes for her speedy recovery.

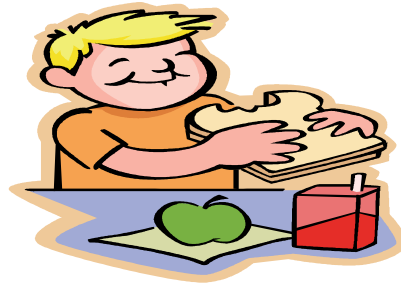
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## Lunch at School

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Students are encouraged to go home for lunch. The benefits for this include a natural and refreshing break in the day, a nourishing meal, and a more relaxed atmosphere.

Students, who must stay for lunch, eat in a supervised gym. Students are expected to follow the instructions of the supervisors. Briarcrest encourages “**litterless lunches**”. Students are asked to bring lunch in reusable containers and to compost leftovers. Students should bring



a nutritious lunch and are to sit quietly in an orderly manner, cleaning up before they leave. Students who fail to follow the routines may lose the privilege of eating at school.

Students cannot leave school

property without written parental permission given to the classroom teacher first thing in the morning.

If your child stays for lunch, please ensure your child leaves home with their lunch each morning. The office becomes very congested when students must call home or must wait for parents to bring their lunch. If picking up your child for lunch, please be on time and ensure your child knows where to meet you.

## Important Notices

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*Please note that the following items will be coming home during the first week.*

1. September calendar with this newsletter.
2. Student Accident Insurance
3. Education Day Letter - September 20, 2011

*Please complete, sign and return the following forms.*

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Medical Information Form (511E) | 2. Physical Education Form (511K)    |
| 3. Lunch Policy/ Permission        | 4. Student Media Release Form (529E) |
| 5. Walking Excursion Form (511H)   | 6. Peanut/Tree Nut Awareness Letter  |

### Personal Electronic Devices (PED)

The Toronto District School Board is phasing in a new policy regarding personal electronic devices. At this time, students are not to bring these devices to school.

# Safety First

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Your child's safety is our first priority here at Briarcrest. To help us maintain this safe environment, we ask that parents please support our following routines.

1. Supervision starts in the playground at 8:10 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m. Students should not arrive at school before this time and should go immediately home after school unless supervised by a parent. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 2 are not permitted to walk home alone and must be picked up by an adult or an older sibling.
2. Teachers begin to establish their classroom rules the first day of school. This involves both entry and exit routines. It is not necessary for parents to walk children to classrooms as this often leads to congested hallways and safety issues. We ask that parents and students refrain from using the front doors during entry/exit routines. Parents are asked to drop-off and pick-up their children at the appropriate exit/entry doors as indicated by homeroom teachers.
3. If your child is absent from school, please call and leave a message on the telephone answering machine at (416) 394 - 6183 before 8:30 a.m. We will continue to make phone calls home for any child absent and not accounted for.
4. If your child is being driven to school, please park your car on a side street and walk your child to the yard or use the designated 10 minute parking zone on Rangoon. The bus loop is very busy before and after school with approximately 10 buses trying to meet tight timelines.
5. If you are picking up your child early or have an appointment with a teacher, please report to the office first.

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## Volunteering at Briarcrest

Help make a difference in the school life at Briarcrest, become a volunteer and share your time and expertise.

Whether it's helping a child by reading one-on-one, joining the class on a trip, participating in the school council or sharing your special skills and interests with students, your involvement is welcome. When you volunteer here or in your community, you're setting a good example for your child to follow.

Parents and community members who are interested in assisting at our school can contact the office. An application form, a meeting with the principal, and a Criminal Records Check must be completed before a volunteer can assist at the school.

## Important Dates

**Sept. 12th** - School Council nomination forms sent home - Due on Sept. 19th

**Sept. 20th** - Education Day - provincial candidates meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Martingrove C.I.

**Sept. 21st** - Open House

**Sept. 26th** - School Council Elections / First General Meeting - gym

**Sept. 27th** - Photo Day

**Sept. 28th** - Terry Fox Walk