

Dalewood Golden Hawks

PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND STAFF: WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE DALEWOOD BETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The beginning of the school year has gone well and routines have been established both in and out of the classroom. The building renovations are almost complete. The gym is now in use and we hope the few remaining items on the renovation to-do list will be completed soon.

If you have any concerns about how your child is doing at school, please feel free to contact your child's teachers. Open and on-going communication is vital to student success. Progress Reports will be sent home on October 30th with interviews on Thursday evening, November 2 and Friday, November 3rd.

It was nice to meet so many parents/guardians at **Meet the Staff** night on September 28th.

As you are now probably aware, there is a new process in place to become a **volunteer**. All the necessary forms are available on the school website and at the office, and will be included in all trip forms that are sent home. When volunteering to drive for our teams and trips, please note that the Board requires that volunteer drivers carry a minimum of \$1 million of liability insurance. If there is any doubt about the insurance coverage carried, or the use of your vehicle to transport students, please review your coverage with your insurance broker.

On the **PA Day** staff worked on developing a **School Annual Plan** in the morning and then reviewed compliance items in the afternoon. We are looking to complete the School Annual Plan by the end of October, at which time we will make it available on the school website..

CashOnline: We are looking to have most parents/guardians register for Cash Online. The registration process is now much easier as no PIN number is required. The registration information is on the school website. If you require further assistance, please call the school.

Parents: Sign up for your child's Parent/Teacher interviews online. Go to www.dalewood.schoolappointments.com and click 'REGISTER'. Follow the prompts to register your student. Register anytime! Booking interviews runs from October 25th through November 1st.

The Uncommon Reader (by Alan Bennett) looks at the transformative power of reading when an elderly lady, unaccustomed to reading anything other than the labels on designer dresses and the menus accompanying state dinners, visits a traveling library van. Her interest is piqued and, assisted by a burgeoning friendship with a much younger fellow reader, she overcomes her initial reluctance to embrace such a laborious pastime to become transfixed by the power of the word. This fascination soon turns into an addiction, with her usual duties pushed to the side as she immerses herself in the eclectic world of literature while re-evaluating the importance and necessity of everyday chores. Not everyone is happy with this transformation, and soon those closest to her start plotting to undermine her interest as well as the steely friendship she increasingly finds indispensable. These machinations eventually lead to changes, though not necessarily the ones intended. As the plotting continues and unintended consequences emerge, the book builds to an unexpected finale, one that none of the main characters anticipate (or, in most cases, desire). This ending is made all the more interesting when the uncommon reader is the queen! Mr. Grattan

Alan Bennett is an English playwright, actor, novelist (*The Clothes They Stood Up In*, *Lady in the Van* – the latter a true story of a woman living in a van in the front garden of Bennett's home for over two decades and recently made into a movie – which premiered recently at The Toronto International Film Festival - starring Maggie Smith), and screenwriter (*The Madness of King George*, *The History Boys*). His novella, *The Uncommon Reader*, like most of his writings, is intelligent and witty and suffused with gentleness and compassion.

Hallowe'en Afternoon

On October 31st students may bring a costume to school to wear in the afternoon. As usual, we ask that costumes do not include weapons (real or otherwise) and are appropriate for a school setting.



Lost and Found

Students have been reminded to check the lost and found bin to claim their missing items. For the remainder of the 2017-18 school year, the students will be reminded to check regularly for their lost items, and at the end of each month any unclaimed articles will be donated to charity.

Physical Education

Curricular...

Our students are continuing their outdoor sports with territorial games (football, bordenball, speedball and soccer) units in October. They will begin Volleyball and their first Health unit (Healthy Eating) in early November and will continue with the Personal Safety unit.

Extracurricular...

Dalewood has finished their extracurricular baseball teams. Congratulations to all of the teams for a job well done! The teams were very successful and enjoyed the beautiful summer weather. Thank you to all of the coaches and volunteers without whom the teams could not be run.

The Dalewood cross country runners enjoyed a great day at their event on October 10th. Thank you to all of them for their hard work, and to our staff and volunteers for helping out.

The Volleyball season has now started.

Many thanks to our **volunteer drivers**.

Without your help, our sports teams would not be able to participate in many of the tournaments and games. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the volunteer forms on the school website. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Grattan at the school.

Immunizations

All grade 7 students will be immunized November 6th and 7th.

Wash your hands!

Sneeze/Cough into your elbow!

This time of year we see an increase in illnesses. Students are encouraged to wash their hands frequently at school. Most illness is avoided with proper hand washing technique and proper cough/sneezing protocol (sneeze and cough into your elbow). Please remind your child(ren) about these important prevention practices.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

With the cold and flu season coming, this is a reminder that the school cannot dispense medications without the signed authorization of **both a parent/guardian and physician**. This includes such items as cough syrup, Tylenol and other over the counter medications.

Please ask Mrs. Mason or Mrs. Galer for the proper form for your doctor to complete for this purpose.