

Welcome to a new school year at Yorkview Elementary School! Staff are excited to be returning to school to connect with students and families. Educators have prepared classrooms and developed programming for September and our caretaking staff have moved furniture, cleaned floors, and reorganized areas of the building. The school was renovated over the summer: the Dundas Valley Pre-School Program (dundasvalleypreschool.com) has moved into a new classroom, significant millwork was completed in the classroom beside it, and our entire front area was redesigned: we have a large and beautiful kindergarten play area for the children, new sidewalks, and an improved parking lot.

In addition to these changes, we have now moved to a Balanced Day schedule. Students now get two 40-minute breaks (10:05-10:45 and 12:25-1:05). Students will eat for 20 minutes and then go outside for the second 20 minutes. Research shows improved health and academic achievement outcomes for students while using the Balanced Day Schedule.

We welcome several new families to Yorkview and I look forward forging strong partnerships with all our stakeholders: parents, students, staff, and community groups. As the new principal, I am excited to be a part of Yorkview and to serve my local community (I have lived in Dundas for over 35 years!)

If you need to speak to someone in the school, an appointment is always best. If the issue is related to the classroom, you will want to speak with the educators. If it is a school-wide issue, you will want to speak with me. If you are coming in without an appointment, please report to the office where Mrs. Cochlin or myself can help you. It is not appropriate to go directly to a classroom as staff are usually busy. More importantly, we have a responsibility to make sure every child is safe – a responsibility we take very seriously. Consequently, we shall lock our doors and continue to provide a buzzer at the front door to access the office.

During the first week of school, students will receive an agenda. This is an excellent communication tool for sharing information with staff as needed. Students who ride the bus have been contacted by the transportation department with bus stops and times. For more bussing information, please refer to the HWSTS (Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services) website at www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca. You will need to create an account to access information. A package of forms will also be coming home in

September. It is important you complete and return asap. They include a Media Consent Agreement, School Cancellation Student Contingency Plan, and Student Verification Forms.

Last, the school continues to host the YMCA Before and After School Program. If you need to enroll your child, please contact Lisa at 905-317-4916.

On behalf of all the staff, thanks for choosing Yorkview for your children. We are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for our students.

Mark Degner

Principal