



# Harkins Elementary School

## September Newsletter 2009

**Welcome** to another school year at Harkins Elementary. I am looking forward to another great year as Principal. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new families and hope that your year is a memorable one. I encourage all parents to become involved in your child's education by joining Home and School or the Parent School Support Committee, or by just visiting regularly with your child's teacher. We have compiled a Parent/Student handbook to help you become familiar with school routines; please keep for future reference. If you have any questions or comments, I invite you to call the office to discuss your concerns. Together we can make this a great year. I am speaking on behalf of the staff when I say that we are very happy to have your child at our school and are very committed to making this a most positive year for him or her.

Phyllis Cooling, Principal

### Meet the Teacher Night September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30



This is a great chance for parents to meet the teachers and learn the routines and expectations for the year. There will be opportunities to join Home and School and to offer for the Parent Support School Committee.

Hope to see everyone there!!

### **Parent School Support Committee**

This is a vital board which helps advise the school administration on important issues. The members review and offer suggestions toward the School Improvement Plan. Elections for available positions will be held during Meet the Teacher Night on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please attend the meeting for more information.



### Terry Fox Walk

Our annual walk will take place this year on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., with a rain date of September 28<sup>th</sup> at the same time. A memo will be sent home to further explain this event, which all parents and friends are invited to attend. Pledge sheets will be distributed to students, and those families who would like to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation may do so. Please be reminded that students should **not** go door to door to canvas.

### **From the Vice Principal. . . .**

Hello!! I am pleased to be serving as vice principal of Harkins Elementary and am very much looking forward to an exciting year. Our school offers not only quality educational programs, but many wonderful opportunities for students to participate in such enriching activities as sports, drama, and music. I anticipate a great year of fun and learning for all students, and I encourage you to become involved in your child's school life wherever possible. Welcome to the team; welcome to Harkins!! ☺

*Mary Ann Barrieau, Vice Principal*

### Staff Changes: Welcome to Harkins!!!

There are a few staff changes at Harkins Elementary this year. A warm welcome to **Mrs. Nancy Donovan**, who will be teaching grade four, and welcome back to **Ms. Jennifer Lawlor**, grades 1-2, and to **Mrs. Karen Newman**, kindergarten teacher. **Mrs. Nancy Hambrook** will be teaching grade five this year, and **Mrs. Suzanne Trevors** will teach Pre-Intensive French, as well as music and grade two math. **Mrs. Linda Hay** will be returning as our administrative assistant. **Mr. Scott Sweezey** will continue to do Methods and Resource, while **Mrs. Roma Gallon** will be with us once again as our Library Assistant on Mondays and Thursdays. Harkins Elementary is a Community School, so we are very fortunate to have **Ms. Cathy Carnahan** working on our behalf again this year.

We are happy to also have with us this term one Student Intern, **Miss Tracy L'Huillier**, who will be with Mrs. Butler. Please refer to the Parent/ Student Handbook for a list of all teachers and their assignments.

The Breakfast program will begin Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>



and will run five days a week. We would like to offer a warm welcome back to **Mrs. Joan Johnston**, who will again be our breakfast program coordinator for the year, and to **Margaret Hillick**, who has volunteered for the month of September. On behalf of the students and staff of Harkins, we extend our thanks to these fine volunteers. If you would like to volunteer or contribute goods, please call the school.

### Drop-off of students on Campbell Street

Parents are advised that Campbell Street is now a way-one street, proceeding west to George Street. The police will be enforcing this by-law and there is a heavy fine if caught going the wrong way on this street. There is a DO NOT ENTER from George Street. This change will make the street less congested and safer for our children. We ask for your cooperation!

### Cross Country

This fall, **Mr. Flynn** will be coaching the Harkins Cross Country Club for interested students in grades 3, 4 and 5. The season lasts approximately one month and has four district-wide events in which we participate. We hope to have many young speedsters sign up!

### Soccer Team



This fall, **Mr. Flynn** will also be coaching the Harkins soccer squad. The season runs for approximately a month and a half and finishes with a district-wide jamboree. The soccer team is open to interested students in grades 4 and 5 and is a non-competitive team, meaning that everyone plays for fun. We hope to have many young players join.

### Home & School

Welcome back to all the students and teachers as another school year is getting started. We have a great year planned for all including our selling of popcorn on Wednesdays for \$0.50. The kids always love this treat. We cannot do any of this without the help and support of "you," the parents. We will be having our first meeting early in October- the date will be given soon- and a brand new executive will be elected at this time. If you are interested in helping out, please call the school and leave your name. We are always looking for a little help from you, the parents. Nothing big, just a little help. We try our best to do as much as we can for our kids, but, as they say, "more hands make less work." Every bit of time and energy and money raised is for our children. So come on down and have **SOME FUN!** I hope to see you at the first meeting.

Thank you,  
Darryl McKinnon, Past- President, Harkins  
Elementary Home and School

### Important Dates:

Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Student Assembly
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the Teacher Night
Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly Terry Fox
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	School Photos
Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Fox Walk (Rain date Mon., Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup> )

### Changes in the Parent/ Student Handbook

The staff of Harkins has developed a new philosophy for dealing with children who may have behavior problems. They have created a proactive approach to teach children strategies on how to be successful in a school setting. In addition to learning how to be successful, routines and procedures have been developed by the staff to ensure a safe and orderly environment for all students. All staff members will be teaching the routines to the children over the next two weeks. Parents will receive a copy of the changes in the Parent\Student Handbook. Students will also be advised at the student assembly on Friday. Some major changes include the following:

- Campbell Street will be locked from 8:30-3:30, daily. Parents must meet their child at the playground door if they are picking them up. This procedure will eliminate the congestion on the floors while students are trying to get ready for home and teachers will be better able to ensure the safety of each child.
- The former detention room will take on a new look and be called the Planning for Success Room. If it is necessary for a child to be assigned to this room at lunch time then the incident and ways to make it right will be discussed with the child. A written notice will be sent home to inform parents of the incident and what is being done to correct the behavior.

A committee will look at compiling information on this positive approach to discipline and will communicate to parents. Please see the Handbook for more details.

### LOST & FOUND

If you child should lose something at school, there is a lost and found located in the Breakfast Room. We encourage you to label all clothing, backpacks, and lunch bags so that, if lost and found, they can easily be returned.

