



Harkins Heart Beat News

September 2015

www.harkins.elementary.nbed.nb.ca

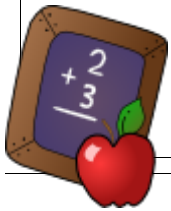
Mission Statement

Harkins Elementary is committed to maintaining a positive and respectful environment where children are nurtured and feel safe. Each child will be given the opportunity, encouragement, and support to develop to their fullest potential, socially and academically.

Welcome Back

The staff would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year. We are excited to see our students after the summer break.

We have some exciting things planned for students and parents and are confident this will be another great year!



Agendas

As well, once again we are requesting that **each** child have an agenda. This has been very successful as it is used not just as a homework book, but also as a way to be informed of upcoming events. It is also an excellent way for you and your child's teacher to keep in regular contact. These are \$7 each, or \$13 per family.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please pay particular attention to avoid sending to school anything made with nuts of any kind. This includes sandwiches, cookies, etc. We have students with severe allergies to nuts of any kind. This is a safety concern for these students.



Important Dates:

Sept. 17th "Meet the Teacher" night from 6:30-7:30

Sept. 18th Bus Safety, Lockdown Drill & Fire Drill

Sept. 23rd Home & School Meeting at 6:30 PM

Sept. 23rd School Pictures

Sept. 25th Terry Fox Walk at 10:30

New Security Door

Like many schools in the District, we have just had a security door installed. This means the playground door will be the only entry point into the school.

The door will be locked at 8:30. It will be reopened at 1:55-2:20 for the K-2 dismissal, and then at 2:55 for the 3:00 dismissal.

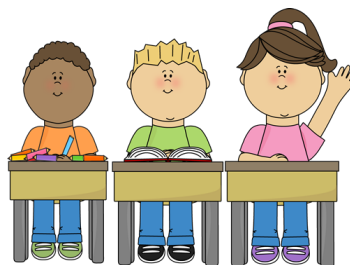
Those wishing to come in to the school during the locked times will need to "buzz in". Someone in the office will ask your reason for coming and unlock the door for you. We realize this is a change from our normal routine. However, we also realize you will feel more secure in knowing our main focus is to keep our students safe.

As always, you must report to the office as soon as you come in.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 627-4087.

Microwaves

Please note, we no longer have microwaves available for the K-1 students. If students have anything such as soup, etc., they will need to have a thermos. K-1 teachers will continue to take milk orders. The cost will be: white \$0.50 and Chocolate \$0.55.



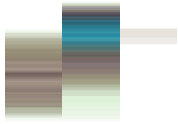
REMINDER

More information on classroom events is available in the classroom newsletters and on the teacher pages.



Talkmail

Once again this year, we are continuing with the talkmail system. This will enable us to send voice messages to you regarding important events at the school. If you find you are not receiving these messages, please let us know right away. We have also added email to the system for those of you who opt for it.



Get Involved!

We are hoping you will be an integral part of our school community. We need you to become actively involved in our school and in your child's education.

There are many opportunities for volunteers. Of course a bonus is, that the children love to have their parents or grandparents at the school helping out.

Throughout the year the school, as well as the Home and School, will be asking for help in various activities.

Home & School

A strong Home and School is vital to a successful year at any school. We cannot have many of the activities for our students without the help and support of "you", the parents and grandparents. We would like to invite you to volunteer for this worthwhile organization by signing up on Meet the Teacher night or by calling the school at 627-4087.

Parent School Support Committee

This is an important committee which helps advise the school administration on larger issues, such as school policies. The members also review and offer suggestions toward the School Improvement Plan. We will be looking to fill the available positions during

Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 17th, 6:30-7:30 PM.

We will meet in the gymnasium before you move to your child's classroom.

A note from your Phys Ed teachers Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Pinder and Mrs. Hale:

We at Harkins Elementary are proud to offer students 150 minutes of Physical Education each week. In order for your child to get the most out of Physical Education please make sure that they have at least one pair of sneakers with them during school hours. Students who do not have the proper foot wear will not be able to participate in class. Grades four and five students are expected to change into proper clothing this year and should have sneakers, short/sport pants and t-shirt for each class. Physical Education is just like any other class taught at Harkins and all students will be expected to participate each day and to do their best. Physical Education is meant to be a class where students can have fun working independently and with others while also improving their overall well-being.

End of Month Awards

At the end of each month, we have a short assembly to acknowledge student success. Students may receive a "Harkins Treasure" for doing well or showing improvement in academics, behavior, being kind to others, etc. As well, students receive Attendance Ribbons for the month. This celebrates students who never missed any days, were not late for school or did not leave early during the entire month.



Policy 307

Food and Nutrition Policy

As part of the Nutrition Policy, we are requesting that parents **do not send pop, chocolate bars or chips to school** with their child's lunch. As per the policy, we want to help our students develop healthy eating habits.



The Breakfast Program is

once again in operation. It will run five days a week. We would like to thank Charlotte Plourde, our breakfast program coordinator again this year. We accept donated items to the breakfast program, such as bread, juice, jam and cheese whiz. Students who decide to have breakfast will come to the Breakfast Room as soon as they get to school. After eating, they are expected to go back outside to the playground.



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. More information to follow.



Soccer Team

This fall, **Mr. Flynn** will once again 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 each child gets equal playing time. We hope to have many young players join!



Meet the Teacher Night Thursday, September 17th 6:30—7:30 pm

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



Terry Fox Walk **September 25th**

Our annual walk will take place this year on Friday September 25th. This is the 34th year Harkins has participated. 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.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS TO PARENTS:

NUT FREE SCHOOL- Please **do not** send any items containing nuts of any kind with your child. Please read labels carefully.

Please put your child's name (or initials) on sneakers, all jackets, boots, lunch boxes, hoodies, sweaters, etc. We had an enormous amount of clothing in our lost & found last year.

Drop-off of students on Campbell St. Parents are reminded that **Campbell Street is a way-one street**, proceeding west from Newcastle Boulevard, with a **DO NOT ENTER from George Street**. The police will continue to enforce this bylaw, and there is a heavy fine if caught going the wrong way on Campbell. Your cooperation in abiding by this bylaw will make the street less congested and safer for our children and the Middle School students. The safer option is to drop children off in the Newcastle Blvd. parking lot (Knights of Columbus) where there is a crossing guard to safely escort children across the street.

Parent/ Student Handbook Please note, the parent/student handbook is located in the first few pages of the student agenda. As well, we will add it to the Documents section of our school webpage. The handbook outlines the various policies, routines, and procedures developed to ensure a safe and orderly environment for all students.

The Campbell Street door will be locked daily. Parents must meet their child at the **playground door if picking them up**. The teacher supervisor will gather the students who are being picked up and take them to you. This procedure has been developed to help teachers to ensure the safety of each child.

MICROWAVE USE AT LUNCHTIME- Please note, we no longer have microwaves available for the K-1 students. If students have anything such as soup, etc., they will need to have a thermos. K-1 teachers will continue to take milk orders.

BUSSING - Your child has been assigned bussing to and from school and they are to remain on the designated busses. Students are not permitted to travel to a friend's house for birthday parties, etc. Under certain circumstances students may get permission to travel to a babysitter after school. A written note stating complete address to which they are to be dropped off must be provided **early in the day** in order to get District Office approval.

Visit our website often:
www.harkinselementary.nbed.nb.ca