



## DON CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Dear Wildcat Parents / Guardians,

We have had an exciting first few days with your children. Every day we see their smiles and glad faces, ready to learn and be back at school. I also see similar smiles from staff. The energy level is high and positive. Thank you for helping us start off the new school year so well. And, from the photo booth to the first day coffee stand, thank you to our PAC.

Your children are not yet in their assigned classes. Students in Grades 1-7 will know their classes likely on Tuesday. Our school staff has been focused on the social, emotional and educational needs of your children as they design these classes. We are not going to rush. The criteria is listed below again for your information. We also considered input from parents; unfortunately we could not honour everyone's requests. When you find out your child's class, please support our decisions and give it some time. No decision was made lightly. It is a challenging process.

We will have 17 divisions. Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 are in straight classes. All Grade 4 students will be in combined classes. The rest of the grades have a mixture of combined and straight grades. We cannot organize classes any other way. We have shared the proposed class organization with some PAC executive members for their input. The district approved this organization late Thursday, September 9. Many people – enrolling and non-enrolling staff - have collaborated on the decisions. As of late Friday, we have 370 students enrolled; we are up about 15 students.

As principal I am proud of our staff. They have done amazing, professional work, in a tight timeline, with many, many factors to consider. Conversations have been intense and long.

I also want to share that we have had two Welcome assemblies outside; one primary and one intermediate. Our bell schedule remains the same. Our lunch hour remains 11:45 am – 12:25 pm. Staff will be responsible for ensuring that children follow health and safety protocols when they return back inside. We strongly encourage masks for K – Grade 3 children. Eventually we would like to return to having student lunch monitors but that is for the future, and not now.

Thank you for your patience and your ongoing support. It means a lot to us as a staff who have the privilege to work and learn with children.

Hy'chka

John Morrison. Principal

### **Class Organization Criteria**

- District & Ministry policies for class sizes and composition
- Teacher and school-based decisions
- Students with special needs and consideration are prioritized
- Academic ability and performance
- Developmental levels – behavioural; emotional; independence
- Learning styles
- Gender balance
- Class / group dynamics
- Parent/Guardian written requests