August 12, 2014

**Upcoming Parent Meetings**

Welcome to our new Connect families and welcome back to everyone else! We hope you enjoyed a fantastic summer holiday and are ready to get back to school. Please take a few moments to acquaint yourself with the information in this bulletin, as it contains very important information about the first couple of weeks of school.

**First Day of School – Wednesday, August 13th**

Class lists will be posted in the IAC and in hallways. School staff will be available to help everyone find their homeroom. As eager as everyone is to begin a new year, please do NOT come to the school prior to 8:15am. On behalf of the Connect School Council, you are invited to attend our Welcome Back Coffee Reception in the gym from 8:30-10am. This is a great opportunity for parents new to our school to meet other families and for others to reconnect with friends from last year.

**Picture Day – Thursday, August 14th**

Given that our outdoor education schedule begins on August 18th and doesn’t conclude until the end of September, this was the only reasonable date we could utilize for picture day. Retakes will happen later in the fall for those who were absent or would like a new picture taken.

**Meet the Teacher – Thursday, August 14th**

Your child’s math/science and humanities teachers will provide a combined half-hour information session, staggered with the presentations of the fine arts and phys ed teachers. Sessions will be repeated according to the schedule below to allow parents with more than one child in the school an opportunity to hear from all of their children’s teachers. In each of the sessions, teachers will:

* introduce themselves and present a course overview
* discuss expectations for classroom work, behaviour, homework, etc.
* describe the ways they will be communicating with parents
* provide opportunities for parents to ask questions.

The fine arts and phys ed teachers will also present parents with similar information about their programs so that parents have an opportunity to meet all of their child’s teachers. In between the scheduled presentations teachers will be in their classrooms and available to talk with parents. Parents can still schedule a parent-teacher interview for a time in the following two weeks to discuss individual student needs, if required.

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| Grades | **4:00pm** | **4:45pm** | **5:30pm** | **6:15pm** | **7:00pm** |
| 4 and 7 | **\*** |  |  | **\*** |  |
| 5 and 8 |  | **\*** |  | **\*** |  |
| 6 and 9 |  |  | **\*** |  | **\*** |
| Fine Arts & Phys. Ed.  (gym) |  | **\*** |  |  | **\*** |

\*signifies when the teachers will be doing their course presentations (your child’s math/science teacher and their humanities teacher will present together)

For example, if you have a child in grade 4, you can attend the math/science and humanities information session at 4:00pm, and then attend the fine arts & PE session at 4:45 in the gym.

***Please note that the following day, Friday, August 15th is a shortened day with an 11:55am dismissal. Buses will depart from the school at 12:05.***

**CSS Outdoor Gear Swap - Thursday, August 14th  (3:00-7:30pm)**

Our incredible parent volunteers have organized an outdoor gear swap in the IAC (just inside our main entrance) so that parents can sell and buy second-hand outdoor gear that will come in handy on the many overnight field trips our students go on. You can drop off quality used gear for resale in the gear swap during these times: Wednesday morning (8:30 - 9:00), Wednesday afternoon (3:00 - 4:30) and Thursday morning (8:30 - 9:00)

**BBQ during Meet the Teacher August 14, 2014 – burger, chips and a drink for $5.00**

**Camp Sweet Work Bee – Saturday, August 16th**

Each year we require considerable volunteer help in order to prepare the Camp Sweet site for the student trips that occur throughout August and September. This year’s work bee will begin at 10am and will likely go until mid afternoon. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact our parent volunteer coordinating committee at volunteer@connectcharter.ca

**Camp Sweet Parent Meetings & Outdoor Education Volunteer Orientation – Tuesday, August 19th**

Each year we need to meet with the parents of students attending Camp Sweet to share information about the program, the risks inherent in outdoor education experiences, and to answer any questions. We also need to meet with all of the parent volunteers who may be joining any of the outdoor trips in a separate volunteer orientation to clarify roles and responsibilities. We will have our Camp Sweet parent meeting for the parents of all grade 4-8 students in the school gym from 6:30-7:30pm. If you are interested in being a volunteer at Camp Sweet we will host a brief (half hour long, maximum) meeting immediately following the Camp Sweet parent meeting, from 7:30-8:00p.

Camp Sweet Parent Meeting (all grades): 6:30-7:30 (gym)

**Parent iPad or Laptop Orientation\* – Wednesday, September 3rd (6:30-7:30pm)**

Before grade 4-9 students are permitted to take their iPads (grades 4-6) or laptops (grades 7-9) home, parents and/or guardians must attend or have attended in the past the orientation session and also complete and submit the following forms (coming home within the first few days):

* Personalized Learning Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
* CSS Laptop Insurance Agreement
* Take Home Procedures

*\*Please note that this session is only mandatory for parents or guardians who are new to Connect and have never attended an iPad or laptop orientation session in the past.* *Parents and guardians who have been to this session in past years are not required to go to the September 3rd orientation, but are welcome to attend.*

It would be best if all parents or guardians new to our school could attend the orientation session, but if you are unable to attend this session, please contact Scott Petronech at 282-2890 or scott.p@connectcharter.ca to schedule an appointment.

**School Council Meeting – Tuesday, September 9th (7:00-8:00pm)**

The first school council meeting of the year will be held in the library on this date. All parents are welcome to attend the meeting to connect with other parents and learn a little more about some of the initiatives the school and the school council are undertaking this year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school at 403-282-2890.

Regards,

Darrell Lonsberry

Principal