



August 16, 2010

Dear Aspengrove families:

Here we are in the middle of August already and it's time to turn our minds to the new school year. As I write, we are experiencing this amazing heat wave – I trust you are all enjoying the beach! Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year.

As always, it is exciting to be starting a new school year – this one being our eighth year in operation. There is real energy in the building as we prepare to open the doors on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Our PYP classes are filling fast and there is increasing interest in our older classes as well. It is so invigorating and encouraging to note that several of our classes are full and others almost full to capacity. We will open the doors with 217 students JK3 – grade 12: a record! The grade one classroom renovation is now complete and we look forward to launching our first grade with two classes.

In this package you will find everything you need to get started for the school year. Please note that this year we are starting a new system – any form that needs to be returned to the school will be printed on **yellow** paper. It is hoped that this will help you with organizing the paper work! We would appreciate if all forms (i.e. the yellow pile!) could be completed and returned by the end of the first day back. You are asked to submit the forms directly to the school office and not to the teachers. Thank you!

You will note that this year we are not including a hardcopy of our Parent-Student handbook. In an effort to honour our commitment to being a green school, we are providing the handbook in pdf format on our school website. A copy will also be attached to an upcoming E-newsletter prior to the school opening day. All families are asked to please ensure that you read through the handbook and sign the enclosed form to indicate that you have done so.

You should find the following enclosures in this package:

- Aspengrove Student-Handbook Agreement form (all families)
- Media release form (all families)
- General permission form (all families)
- Student information verification form (all families)
- Volunteer information (all families)
- Exploratories information and sign-up form (grade 5–9 only)
- Sea-to-Sky outdoor education trip information and forms (grade 5-7 only)

As noted above, the first day of school is **Tuesday, September 7, 2010** with regular hours of 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Students in grades KG-12 are to go to the following locations between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.:

Grade KG-5: Homerooms  
Grade 6: Mr. Easterman's room  
Grade 7: Mr. Eriksson's room  
Grade 8: Mr. Macoun's room  
Grade 9: Mrs. Marshall's room  
Grade 10: Mr. Kneisz's room  
Grade 11: Mr. Vincent's room  
Grade 12: Mrs. Coull's room

Mrs. Reynolds will be in contact with all JK 3 & 4 families directly with information regarding the first day schedule. We are making some changes to the schedule this year to better meet the needs of our students, particularly our younger members. To that end, the first day whole school assembly will be held at **11:30 a.m.** in the school gymnasium. All students and faculty will be in attendance and parents are cordially invited to attend. New students and staff members will be presented with their school pins, house pins and house t-shirts at this assembly.

Just a few more details to note before finishing: we have made some changes to our class schedules this year. The PYP and MYP will have different recess and lunch times. This is to better accommodate our growing population and to use our shared space more efficiently. As a result, grade 6 – 12 classes will begin at 8:25 a.m. – five minutes earlier than before. PYP classes will begin at 8:30 a.m. as in the past. We ask all families to ensure that their students are at school no later than 8:15 a.m. in order to ensure that they are ready to start the first class **on time**. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

This is a lengthy letter but hopefully you will find it helpful. The first newsletter of the year will shortly be posted on the Intranet. Families are encouraged to check out our school website on a regular basis as we move towards making it our main source of communication. You will find our 2010-2011 school calendar; Extra-curricular activities document; and supply lists are already posted. Please make a note of two important dates: September 14<sup>th</sup> – our Parent Volunteer Committee coffee morning at 8:30 a.m. and September 16<sup>th</sup> – Meet the Teacher Night at 6:30 p.m.

Here's to another exciting and productive year at Aspengrove - I look forward to welcoming you all on September 7<sup>th</sup>!

Yours truly,

*Zinda Fitzgerald*

Head of School