

August 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year at Margaret Avenue Senior Public School! Your child is fortunate to be in attendance at this truly remarkable school! The staff is driven by the sincere beliefs that all students can learn, and that partnership between staff, students, parents enhances the learning and overall well-being of each student. We are proud to provide excellent academic instruction for our students and an environment where everybody is respected and cared for.

Over the course of the summer Margaret Avenue has welcomed new staff to the team that I would like to share with you. The additions are as follows:

Mrs. Soula Kritikos will return to our school team teaching both grade 7 and 8 Mathematics.

Miss Alix Maffin will join our grade 8 team. Her homeroom class is 8-3 and she will teach Core; Language Arts, History and Geography.

Mrs. Laura Griffin will join our Administrative team as the Vice Principal of Margaret Avenue.

Mr. Rob MacQueen will return to join our Administrative team as my Principal Partner during my gradual return to work over the next few weeks.

We also would like to take this opportunity to wish a very fond farewell to **Mr. Chian Huong**, our Head Custodian who retired on Friday, August 21. We look forward to having Chian return during the first week of school to allow us all to honour him for his many years of service to Margaret Avenue's students and staff.

We are so fortunate to have such capable and caring people join our staff. We look forward to you meeting them, and all our staff, at a "**Meet the Staff Night**" that will be arranged as soon as possible.

At Margaret, we believe strongly in the positive impact of parent partnerships and are looking forward to continuing those partnerships with you. We know that with supportive staff and involved families, student success is all but guaranteed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. E. Giannopoulos,

Principal

Looking Ahead to a Tremendous School Year!

Communication:

All necessary information, calendar of events and parent resources will continue to be communicated on our Margaret Avenue website (<http://mrg.wrdsb.ca>). Parents can receive a direct email when the website is updated. In order to receive this notification parents are asked to subscribe to the website by entering their email address using the "Subscribe" dialogue box on the first page of our website. We also update an Instagram page ([instagram.com/margaretavesenior](https://www.instagram.com/margaretavesenior)) where we include photos and videos of school events and activities. We also have a school twitter account. Please follow us at **@mrgwrdsb**. **All these methods of parent engagement are new to our school** and we have appreciated the positive community feedback!

Busing:

The School Board offers transportation to students who qualify. For all your bussing information, please visit the website at www.stswr.ca. We do not organize bussing at the school. When online, please click on Student Login and use your child's OEN number (on their report card), birthdate and address.

School Council:

Parent Engagement is a priority for us at Margaret Avenue as we endeavor to create meaningful partnerships with our parents. Our first School Council Meeting is on **Monday, October 5**, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Treasures Fundraising:

Our School will be participating in Treasures Book Fundraising in September! We have a variety of exciting initiatives that we would like to embark on to enhance the learning environment of our students, both inside and outside our school. It is through our collective fundraising efforts that we can make our goals a reality. More information will be shared at our Kick-Off Assembly on **Monday, September 21!**

Bell Times and Nutrition Breaks:

Students must be in their homeroom by no later than 8:30 am. They may not enter the school before 8:20 am unless they are involved in a before-school activity. There are two nutrition breaks during the day. Our Tuck Shop is open during both Nutrition Breaks. Pizza will be sold Tuesday to Friday and Pitas will be sold every Wednesday. Students eat in the lunchroom and then go outside. However, during the Activity portion of the break, we will continue to encourage students to get involved in activities, clubs, teams and events! We will dismiss students at 2:50 pm.

Daily Schedule:

Student Entry Time	8:20am	Attendance Bell	8:30am
Homeroom/Announcements		8:30 - 8:42	
Period 1		8:42 - 9:30	
Period 2		9:30 - 10:18	
Nutrition Break		10:18 - 10:58	
Period 3		10:58 - 11:46	
Period 4		11:46 - 12:34	
Nutrition Break		12:34 - 1:14	
Period 5		1:14 - 2:02	
Period 6		2:02 - 2:50	
Dismissal		2:50pm	

Margaret Avenue Start Up Supplies:

It is the policy of the Waterloo Region District School Board that all mandatory learning materials will be provided to each student; however we encourage the purchase of general school supplies by families. Please see the list below to help guide these general purchases for your child:

- Running Shoes (white soles)
- Pencil Case, Glue Sticks
- Pencil Crayons
- 2 Inch Binder
- Lined Paper
- Blue, red, black pens
- Highlighters
- Ruler (30 cm)
- Graph Paper
- Calculator
- Geometry Set

Student Planner:

All students will need to have a student planner to record tests, homework, assignments, and special events. These will be sold in September. We encourage parents to check the planner regularly to ensure it is being used effectively.

Combination Locker Lock:

The Lock that is provided is of highest durability and quality and will certainly last the two years your child attends Margaret Avenue.

Physical Education Uniforms:

The common school Phys. Ed. Uniform ensures consistency amongst our students and allows for easy identification of our students when attending sporting events, intramurals or off campus activities.

For the items listed above, we are kindly requesting payment for:

Phys. Ed.	T-shirt	\$16.00
Phys. Ed.	Shorts	\$20.00
Lock for Locker		\$6.00
<u>School Planner</u>		<u>\$8.00</u>

Total: \$50.00

Please remit payment, preferably in cash, to your child's homeroom teacher by **Monday, September 14, 2015. Any student requiring financial assistance should contact the Principal, Vice-Principal or any staff member who will ensure this is addressed in an appropriate, sensitive and confidential manner.**

If you have any further questions or concerns with the above, please do not hesitate to contact your child's homeroom teacher or us in the office.