



Morna Heights School

September



Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school. It's hard to believe summer is over and we are starting another school year! We would like to take the time to welcome back familiar faces and new staff as well. Our staff this year is as follows:

Principal	Mrs. Gail Crilley
Secretary	Mrs. Brenda Johnson
Custodian	Mr. Carl LaViolette
KG	Mrs. Natasha Bennett
Gr. 1	Miss Olivia Redfurn
Gr. 2	Mrs. Kathy Walsh
Gr. 3	Mr. Steve Clark
Gr. 4/ 5	Mr. Jeff Prosser
Resource	Mrs. Gail Crilley
Phys Ed	Mr. Dennis May
Music	Mrs. Maureen Beckwith/ Mr. Kyle Peters
Literacy Gr. 4	Cheryl Roy
Guidance	Mr. Dennis May
Educational Assistants:	Mrs. Karen Stone
	Ms. Angela Ackroyd
	Mrs. Susan Welton
	Mrs. Sherry Duke
	Ms. Sherri Edling-Duguay
	Sandra Noble d'Entremont
Speech Language Pathologist	



This will be your last printed newsletter unless otherwise indicated.



Keep up to date on all Morna Heights' activities using the following websites:

Home - go to *GOOGLE* and enter Morna Heights School

<https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/district8/schools/Morna%20Heights%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

Or follow us on twitter Morna Elementary@mornaheights

Important Information!!!



Bell Schedule

8:40 am	Class begins
10:25 am	Recess
10:40 am	Class resumes
11:50 am	Lunch (playtime)
12:15 pm	Lunch (eating)
12:40 pm	Class resumes
2:15 pm	K-2 dismissal
3:15 pm	3-5 dismissal

For the safety of our students we are reminding parents and guardians that when they are dropping off their child/children to please drop them off on Chalmers Drive - just in front of the school. (This avoids you from entering the school yard where the buses are arriving.) If you have to come into the school to pick up a child or to drop something off - please park your car in the designated parking area and come into the school office. **Also, a reminder that the speed limit in the school area is only 40 km and parents should slow down even more when approaching the school yard.**

Dismissal



Bus students will line up and leave the school. After the bus lines have left, walking students as well as students being picked up will leave their classes and meet parents at the end of the hall. Once buses have left the yard, students may leave.

We are also asking parents who are waiting for their children to sit on the yellow bench or chairs provided. This will enable students/staff to pass through the hall easily.

As mentioned, dismissal times are 2:15 and 3:15. Please try to avoid picking up your child before this time as curriculum is still being taught.

We understand there are occasions where appointments may be necessary. Please send a written note to make teachers aware of the appointment when they are required to leave early.



Reminders

- All visitors to the school **must** sign in at the Office.
- **Morna Heights School is a "Scent Free" school.**
- **Morna Heights School is a "Nut Free" school.**
- Children are not permitted to bring electronic devices of any kind to school.
- Please leave toys at home.
- Please sign out your child if you are taking them out of the school during regular school hours, or if you are picking them up at the end of the day. (A written note is helpful to teachers so that they are aware.)
- Morning supervision begins at 8:15am. Please **do not** drop your child off before this time. It is important that you meet your child at the bus stop. The bus driver will not let students off unless there is an adult to accept them.

School Pictures



School Pictures will be taken of your child on Thursday, October 8th. Once again "Life Touch" will be taking our student's photos.

Criminal Record Check

It is **mandatory** that all of our volunteers have a criminal record check completed as well as policy 701 if you are planning to volunteer in any capacity. Both forms are available at the office.

Please note - If you submitted a criminal record check to the school last year, you will not be required to send in another as long as you have remained in our school community. Please call the school to confirm we have your copy on file. We appreciate your co-operation and understanding.

Permission Slips

Your child will be taking home a general permission slip which gives them permission to go on walks in the community with their class. (No busing required.) Please sign and return this form asap. This form will be kept on file for the school year 2018-2019.

When your child has the opportunity to take part in a class trip or go on a special event, another permission slip will be sent home with details for you to sign. (Busing required.)

EMO Help



In the event of early school closure (due to inclement weather) we rely on parent volunteers to contact other parents. We **MUST** have two parent volunteers for each class. We provide a list of names of the parents that you would contact.

If you would like to volunteer, please inform the classroom teacher or contact the school at 738-6505.

Busing Information

Before going onto the ASD-S Website, please contact the school at 738-6505 for your child's Student ID Number as this is required for you to get any busing information.

After you have the number just scroll down to Busing Information and click on Transportation Eligibility and enter your information.

Terry Fox Walk



On September 16th 2018 students will be participating in the Terry Fox Walk. We will leave the school and walk the block around our school. We will be collecting a small donation (\$1.00 or \$2.00) to support cancer research. You can now Donate using School Cash On line!

Fluoride Program



We will be starting our Fluoride Program during the month of October. Please be sure to return your child's permission slip as soon as possible.

Safe Arrival Program



Safe Arrival & Attendance

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In ASD-S one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are introducing *a new, more efficient* student absence reporting system called **Safe Arrival**. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **Safe Arrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the Safe Arrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number **1-833-219-9065** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **Safe Arrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Starting **September 10th**, please report absences in advance using **Safe Arrival** instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.



Volunteers Needed!

Elementary Literacy Friends (Elf) is a volunteer based reading achievement program that helps Grade 2 students who would benefit from additional one on one literacy activities. Elf provides training, materials, feedback and all of the support necessary for each volunteer to make a positive, lifelong impact not just on a student, but on how that student will contribute to society throughout his or her life. Volunteers do not need previous teaching experience; only a willingness to help and commit to the Elf requirements.

Following an initial 3hour training session, the volunteer is matched with a student. The volunteer works with the student for 1 hour at the end of the school day, twice a week for 10 weeks. To learn more about Elf or to register for training, please visit us online at www.elfnb.com or call 1.855.898.253

School Cash Online

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Anglophone School District South is now offering *School Cash Online* as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, everything from field trips to yearbooks.

School Cash Online allows parents to pay school related fees safely, quickly and easily. By using *School Cash Online*, you help increase efficiency and security at schools. Teachers and secretaries are then able to focus their time on helping students, and not counting cash.

School Cash Online shows all of the school fees available to your student online for purchase. You can then view and choose to purchase these fees online through [two different payment methods, including credit cards]. You can also stay informed of upcoming events and keep track of which school fees require your attention.

Register today – a simple task that takes less than two minutes – by visiting <https://asd-s.schoolcashonline.com/> and navigating your way to the *School Cash Online* page. You will need your child's [last name and date of birth to register]. Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the parent help desk at **1(866) 961-1803** or by visiting schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support.

Sincerely,

Gail Crilley
Principal,
Morna Heights School

Register Now!!

1. Create Your Profile

Go to <https://asd-s.schoolcashonline.com/> and click on "Get Started Today".

2. Confirm Your Email

Check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details.

Stay connected by selecting "Yes" to email notifications about upcoming fees.

- I want to receive email notifications for new fees assigned to my student and updates on school-related activities.

3. Add a Student

Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details.

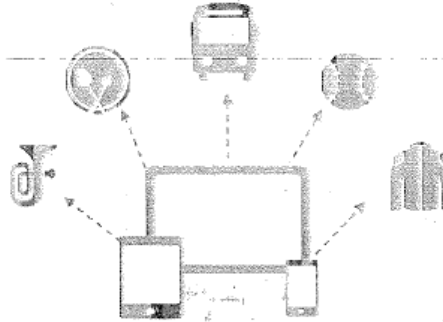
Why sign up for *School Cash Online*?

School Cash Online is an online parent portal that offers a safe, fast and convenient way to pay for school activity fees.

- ✓ Pay for your child's school fees online. Anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ Stop sending your child to school with money.
- ✓ Get automatic email notifications about upcoming school fees and activities.

Purchase these items and more online.

Use your computer, tablet or smartphone to register and pay online.



Which payment methods are accepted?



Credit Card

Pay with Visa or MasterCard on *School Cash Online* by entering your credit card number, CVV number (the three digits on the back of your card), card expiry date, and billing information.



eCheck

An electronic version of a paper check used to make payments online. Anyone with a checking or savings account can pay by eCheck on *School Cash Online*.



myWallet

An online wallet that can be loaded to hold funds and pay for your child's fees on *School Cash Online*. myWallet also allows you to allocate funds to pay for school fees at a later date.



Interac Online

Pay directly from your bank account with Interac Online.

Wits Program

Morna Heights will be again using the WITS anti-bullying program this year. Here is an article to explain some of the concepts that will be covered:

WITS FAQ

1. What are the WITS Programs?

The WITS Programs bring together schools, families and communities to create responsive environments that help children deal with bullying and peer conflict. WITS has two parts:

1. WITS Primary Program – Teaches Kindergarten to Grade 3 children to **W**alk away, **I**gnore, **T**alk it out and **S**eek help when faced with peer conflict. The acronym also provides a common language that children and the adults around them can use to talk about and respond to problems.
2. WITS LEADS Program – A more grown-up program designed for Grades 4-6 students, which teaches more complex problem-solving strategies: **L**ook and listen, **E**xplore points of view, **A**ct, **D**id it work? and **S**eek help. LEADS trains students to become WITS Leaders who can help younger children with their problems.

Teachers reinforce the programs by reading popular children's books, which emphasize WITS and LEADS messages, to their students. We also encourage students to use their WITS and LEADS skills to deal with problems and hope you will too!

Want to know more? Explore the WITS website at www.witsprogram.ca.

2. How can I help my child use WITS to solve problems?

Your child can likely recite the WITS acronym but may need help putting it in action. Use the tips below with your child to explore how WITS can help with peer conflict problems.

- **W**alk away: Role-play walking away from the situation. Ask: What would happen if you walked away? Would it solve the problem? If not, try another strategy.
- **I**gnore: Discuss ways to ignore, like leaving the situation or withdrawing eye contact. Ask: What would happen if you ignored? Would it solve the problem? If not, try another strategy.
- **T**alk it out: Suggest statements to use to talk it out with the person bothering him or her. Sometimes saying "Stop" is enough. Maybe a joke would help. Ask: What would happen if you talked it out? Would it solve the problem? If not, try another strategy.
- **S**eek help: Suggest other adults your child could ask for help, like a teacher. Ask: What would happen if you asked another adult for help? Would it solve the problem? If not, who else could you seek help from?

Want to know more? Explore the Using WITS with Your Child section of the WITS website at www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/.

3. How can I get my child talking about peer conflict and bullying?

When it comes to talking to your child about peer conflict and bullying, once is not enough. Children need multiple opportunities to learn information and apply it in their lives. So how do you start the conversation?

- Children may feel their situation is unique and that you wouldn't understand. Share a story about how you were teased or left out as a child. What did you do? Did it work? Who helped you?

- Pick a book from the WITS book list at www.witsprogram.ca/schools/book-lists/, read it with your child and start a discussion. What WITS or LEADS strategies did the characters use? Did the book remind you of anything similar that has happened in real life?

Sometimes the best way to get your child talking is through teachable moments. When watching TV or movies, talk about characters' actions and how they resolved conflicts. When your child experiences conflict with a sibling or a friend, ask which WITS strategies might help.

Want to know more? Explore the Using WITS with Your Child section of the WITS website at www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/.

4. How can I support WITS at home?

The WITS Programs are designed to reach beyond schools to protect children from peer victimization wherever they are. Parents play a critical role by teaching children to use their WITS in a variety of situations. So what can you do to support WITS at home?

- Use WITS and LEADS to help your child solve conflicts and deal with your own. Use the language when watching TV or movies to talk about how characters handle problems.
- Talk about WITS reminder gifts. Through WITS, community leaders visit classrooms and drop off gifts, such as bookmarks, pencils and posters. When your child brings home these gifts, ask: Who gave you this? What did the visitor talk about?
- Praise your child when you observe him or her using WITS or LEADS strategies. Ask: How did you decide which strategy to use? How did you feel when it worked?

Want to know more? Explore the Using WITS with Your Child section of the WITS website at www.witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-children/.

Open House, PSSC Elections and Meet the Teacher



On September 5th 2019. We would like to invite parents and students to come to meet the teachers of Morna Heights School. The meet and greet will begin following PSSC elections at 6:30pm. To end the evening there will be a corn boil and refreshments served!

PSSC Election

The PSSC Election will also be held on September 5, 2018 during our Open House. The PSSC's (Parent School Support Committee) main function is to act as an advisory body with respect to policy issues, as well as assisting in the development/implementation of the School Improvement Plan. If you are interested in being a member, please plan to attend. Further information is available by calling the school.



Parent School Support Committee

The Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) is a group of 6-12 members, parent and community members who work in an encouraging, advisory, and collaborative fashion with the School Principal and staff to ensure the best possible learning opportunities for students of their school.
[Section 32(2-7.1) of the *Education Act*] <http://www.gnb.ca/0062/PDF-acts/e-01-12.pdf>

Why Get Involved?¹

Dozens of international studies indicate that the home environment powerfully influences what students learn in and outside school. Children (from infancy through age 18) spend approximately 92% of their time outside school under the influence of their parents. Parents most important roles include:

- Conversations about school and everyday events
- Encouraging and discussing reading
- Monitoring/reviewing of television watching and other activities
- Deferral of immediate gratification to accomplish long-term goals
- Expressions of affection and interest in the child's academic progress

What's In It For Me?² Becoming involved offers wonderful opportunities for personal growth and professional development. Consider the following benefits:

- Networking opportunities
- Helps you retain and sharpen old skills and interests, e.g. keeping in touch with student likes, interests, and concerns
- Perfect place to develop new skills, teamwork, planning and goal setting skills,
- Offers opportunities to practice skills in a relatively risk-free environment and to observe others' best practices
- Expands your horizons and explore new options
- Gives you the satisfaction of knowing you are doing good work by being involved in your school and community
- Gives you visibility, an opportunity to be known personally
- Can be energizing and renewing, a break in your routine
- Creates leaders through development of new qualities and skills, for example, persuasion, innovation, strategic thinking, change management, conflict resolution.
- Demonstrates management, customer service and leadership skills that could be documented in a resumé

Home and School

The Morna Heights Home and School is part of the National Home and School Organization. They are the providers of Hot Lunch, the organizers of our Christmas Bizarre, fund raisers, Movie Nights, and much much more. The Home and School are always looking for Volunteers and new Members. It is a great way to be involved in the Morna Heights School Community.