



## Back to School

September, 2009

### Greetings and Welcome Back

September has arrived and school is back in full swing. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to students and their families new to Sir James Dunn. This is also my first year at SJD and I am honoured and excited to be joining the SJD Eagles family. As well, I look forward to meeting the returning students and their families. We are proud to have you carry on the long standing traditions of excellence at SJD.

Effective communication is a focus this year. It is my intent to send out a monthly newsletter in this format with some regularly featured columns. Some of the regular columns will include: From the Office, Month at a Glance, Athletics, French Immersion, House Keeping, and a couple of feature articles. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Once again, on behalf of Mr. Turco and the staff at SJD welcome back and all the best for the school year.

### Getting Ready for Start-up

During the summer months work continues in the school to prepare SJD for the coming year. I would like to thank:

- Custodial Staff—Mary Idehan and her summer staff for all of their hard work completing repairs and a thorough cleaning of the school.
- Secretarial Staff—Ann Arbour, Pat Noble, Shelly Evoy and Louisa Guertin for facilitating a smooth transition into the new school year and their generous support in my new role as Principal.
- Student Services— Malini Leahy, Ted Fryia and Bill Paul for volunteering the last week of August to meet with students to resolve time table conflicts and schedule new students.
- Early Eagle Day—Special thanks to Mr. Joey Turco and the volunteer teachers and staff who assisted with the organization and implementation of this event. We had a great turnout and positive feedback.
- Athletic Coordinators and Coaches— Terri Lyn Della Penta, Tom Annett , Coaches of Girls' Basketball, Boys' Football and Cross Country Running teams.

### Month at a Glance

#### Sept. 21

Grade 10 Assembly—Jeremy Dias Presentation

#### Sept. 22 Jr. Girls Basketball @

St. Basil, 5:15

#### Sept. 23

MADD Assembly all Grades  
Girls East West Basketball @ St. Mary's, 6:00 p.m.

#### Sept. 24

Jr. Girl's Basketball, Korah @ SJD, 5:15 p.m.

#### Sept. 26

Jr. Football vs. Korah

#### Sept. 29

Sr. Girls Basketball, Baw @ SJD, 6:30 p.m.

#### Sept. 30

Algoma Family Services student presentation @ White Pines

#### Oct. 01

Jr./Sr. Girls Basketball @ SMC  
Sr. Football @SMC

#### Oct. 02

P.A. Day

#### Oct. 06

Early I.D. Reports  
Jr./Sr. Girls Basketball @ Korah

#### Oct. 08

Sault College Info Day @ Sault College  
University Night—Location TBA

#### Oct. 15

Jr. Sr. Girls Basketball  
White Pines @ SJD

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**Oct. 16**

Sr. Football—SJD vs WP

**Oct. 20**

Football Quarter Finals  
Jr./Sr. Girls Basketball

**Oct. 21**

Football Quarter Finals

**Oct. 22**

Academic Awards Assembly  
12:30, Bondar Gym, Reception to follow in Cafeteria  
Jr. Sr. Girls Basketball, SMC  
@ SJD

**Grade 9:  
Early Eagle Day**

August 27 was our annual Early Eagle Grade 9 Orientation Day. The half day event is designed to facilitate the transition from elementary to secondary school without the presence of the returning student body.

Students entering Grade 9 spent the morning with their Homeroom Teachers familiarizing themselves with the school, receiving their timetables, completing homeroom registration and locker assignments and paying fees.

Special thanks go out to Mr. Joey Turco, Mr. Annett, Ms. Della Penta and the volunteer teachers and staff who assisted with this successful event. Your dedication and support is what makes SJD a safe and welcoming environment for all students.

**Athletic Programs are Up and Running**

Our Athletic Coordinators, Ms. Della Penta and Mr. Annett have been busy coaching and assisting other coaching staff with the 2009 Athletic program. Team selection and practices for junior/senior girls' basketball along with junior/senior boys' football began in late August.

The cross-country program began in early September. Interested students should listen to morning announcements for details. All other athletic programs will be promoted as their season approaches.

Coaches and their assistants put in countless volunteer hours for the benefit of our student athletes. Their dedication and passion develops athletes with outstanding athletic skills as well as young men and women with strong interpersonal and leadership skills. We are very proud of the SJD Eagles tradition of "excellence in athletics". Join us in supporting the athletic program as a student-athlete, assistant or dedicated fan. **See you at the "game"!**

**General Housekeeping Items**

The staff at Sir James Dunn are dedicated to improving student success rates by developing and delivering quality programs in a learning environment that is nurturing and supportive. It is our goal to assist all students in achieving their full potential as members of a global community. An important aspect of student success is a healthy partnership between school and home. Your assistance with some of the following expectations will help guarantee an outstanding year for your student. Please feel free to contact myself or other members of the staff to share any thoughts, celebrations or concerns.

**Be Here: Attendance is the Key to Success!**

All research indicates that students that attend regularly experience a higher rate of success. Your assistance is needed to ensure that students attend all classes on a daily basis. Every effort should be made to schedule appointments outside of school time. In the event that your student will be absent please contact the school at 945-7177. Upon returning from an absence students are required to "sign in" with a note or phone call indicating the date and explanation of absence. Attendance records are a legal document and must be accurate and up-to-date at all times.

**Be On Time: an Important Life Skill**

Punctuality is an important life skill. During the first few minutes of every class important information and instruction is given with respect to the day's lesson. Students arriving late miss this valuable information and are therefore already at a learning disadvantage. We ask your assistance to ensure that students arrive on time for all classes.

**Be Prepared:**

Students are expected to attend classes with all of the required equipment; pens, paper, textbooks etc. as well as homework and assignments completed. Nightly review of daily class work increases student success.

## H1N1 Directive



The Algoma District School Board in consultation with the Algoma Health Unit and the Ministry of Health recognize the importance of having strategies in place to prevent the spread of respiratory disease in the school setting.

We are working together to reinforce existing infection prevention and control practices such as hand hygiene, staying home when ill, cough/sneeze etiquette and keeping the school environment as clean as possible.

The influenza season tends to intensify as people spend more time indoors but there are some key prevention activities that will mitigate the spread of respiratory viruses like influenza:

- Washing hands well and often with soap and water (or using alcohol-based hand rubs)
- Coughing and sneezing into your sleeve or arm
- Avoiding the sharing of personal items
- Avoiding frequent contact with eyes, mouth and nose
- Minimizing social contact with others while symptomatic
- Stay home/self isolate until feeling well again

Contact your family doctor/emergency department if you feel very unwell

We are making every effort to communicate this information to the SJD school community via posters, announcements, staff, synervice, web links and our e-newsletter.

Further resources and current updates on H1N1 can be found at [www.algomapublichealth.com](http://www.algomapublichealth.com) and more information will be sent out from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in the form of a householder pamphlet in the coming days.

## Amalgamation Up-Date

The tendering process is nearing completion and ground breaking for the New Secondary School is approaching. It is an exciting time. Currently the Algoma District School Board is seeking input from the School Communities regarding the operation of Sir James Dunn and Bawating in September 2010.

There are three proposals on the table. The first, status quo, would see the two schools continue to operate at their current locations until September 2011. The downside of this option is the delay of demolition to the former Bawating building which would prevent completion of the parking facilities and fields/grounds for another year.

Option two would see the two schools operate independently at one location, Sir James Dunn, allowing crews to complete construction/demolition on time. The third option would blend the two school populations, students and staff, which would not only assist with the construction schedule but also provide additional academic and athletic program access to all students. Your input is greatly appreciated. The Board has held a joint meeting with the two school councils. Additional information sessions will be scheduled in the near future. Please contact me, Mr. Joey Turco or Superintendent Asima Vezina to share your thoughts on this issue. It is our goal to continue to provide the best program for all students.

## French Immersion

C'est la rentrée!

Bienvenue aux étudiant(e)s française. Je vous souhaite une année motivante pleine de possibilités, d'expériences nouvelles et d'accomplissements qui développeront votre potentiel dans les deux langues.

Our French Immersion coordinator Mme. Reid has been busy enhancing our partners in the francophone community. We are hoping to provide Francophone Coop opportunities in the future as well as a variety of cultural events. We will keep you posted.

## Project ABCD

As we continue our mission to improve student achievement, the Algoma District School Board has cooperatively developed Project ABCD (Action for Building a Community that is Drug Free) with a variety of partners including Sault Ste. Marie Police Services, the RCMP, Anishinabek Police Services, Batchewana Police Service, and our local Catholic and French school boards. Working with our community partners, Project ABCD will assist schools in addressing the increase in and availability of drugs coming onto school property. Focusing on Education, Intervention and Treatment, and Deterrent and Enforcement, Project ABCD will address the issue of deterring drugs from coming onto school property and to develop programs that will benefit students. More details will be available as the plan unfolds in the coming weeks.



## Tip for the Month

Every student received a copy of the school agenda. It is a valuable organizational and time management tool. Review your son/daughter's agenda regularly and ensure they are using it effectively.

The agenda also contains a complete outline of school policies and the code of conduct.