

Guidance News

September 2011

Welcome back to school! I love September and the return to school because both staff and students are rejuvenated, re-connect with great enthusiasm all while looking forward to an awesome new year and a fresh start. For those new to Northlea, welcome. It is a great school with fantastic teachers and variety of activities offered to meet the interests of all students. All they need to do is get involved!



I have taught at Northlea for over 16 years in a variety of capacities (classroom teacher - primary, junior and intermediate, Health and Phys Ed teacher, Special Education teacher and now as Guidance Counsellor). This year I will be working at **Bedford Park EMS** (one day a week) **Bessborough EMS** (two days a week) as well as **Northlea EMS**. I plan on being at Northlea on Mondays and Thursdays, but that could change. At this point I have visited all the Intermediate classes introducing myself and my role as Guidance Counsellor. As an Itinerant Guidance Counsellor my key responsibility is to support the Gr 7 and 8 students in their personal, interpersonal and career education. I love this age group as they have lots of energy and are trying very hard to be grown up!

With the new school year, I have encouraged all the students to start the year off "on the right foot" by trying their hardest, participating in class and school, in addition to getting homework and assignments done on time, "right off the bat". The Grade 7 students should be prepared for a big change from Gr 6 with the increased rotary, different teaching styles, volume of homework and overall expectations regarding quality and responsibility of homework. I have encouraged all intermediate students to use their agenda to help keep them

organized and seek assistance from their teachers. I explained to the students that asking for help is not a sign of weakness rather a sign of strength when one recognizes their limitations or need for clarification. All the teachers are available for extra help, but each student needs to take responsibility and make their own arrangements. Attached you will find "Tips for Success" that I have compiled. I hope you find it useful.



Both the Gr 7 and 8 students will be preparing themselves for secondary school. This includes taking responsibility for their academic learning as well as attending various high school open houses to see which secondary school will be the best fit for their learning needs. I will be holding parent evenings as well, so parents have the opportunity to hear and learn what I teach the students. One of the evening presentations I am planning on holding is **Transitions from Gr 8 to 9 on Thursday, November 3, 2011** at 7:00pm in the main gym at Bessborough EMS. All Gr 7 and 8 families are welcome to attend. On Thursday, January 19, 2012 there will be a presentation on **Secondary Schools, Courses and Course Types: What's Best for My Child** in the South Gym at Northlea EMS.



I look forward to working with your child(ren) and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at arpi.kurkjian@tdsb.on.ca

Sincerely,
ARPI KURKJIAN