

Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year

Guidance News

September 2016

Happy New School Year!

I trust that you had a fun and relaxing summer. I am very excited to be returning to your school this year as your child's Elementary Itinerant Counselor (Guidance Counselor). I am here to help your child through the wonderful and sometimes challenging middle school years. I will be at the school on **Wednesday** and **Friday** afternoons throughout the school year. The focus for guidance this year is the following:

Creating Pathways to Success.

Ontario's education and career/life planning program has been designed to ensure that all students develop the capacity to:

- Set and Achieve personal goals
- Effective transitions
- Positive community relations

The students will learn to create effective Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) using an online program entitled My Blueprint. This will assist them in reflecting and exploring their interests and strengths. The process enables the students to establish and monitor their progress towards academic and personal goals in collaboration with their teachers and parents.

Grade 8 to 9 Transitions.

The grade 8 students will be working on "Choices for Nine", their transition program to grade 9 throughout the year. The introduction to the program **begins in early October**. I will be making regular visits to the grade 8 classes to ensure that information goes out in a timely manner.

As an introduction to the "Choices for Nine" program, there will be a **parent information evening** at the school, **date to be confirmed by end of September**. It is highly recommended that all families of grade 8 children attend this very important meeting. This session will provide information about key dates,

timelines, Optional Attendance procedures, Secondary School programs and requirements, Secondary School Open House dates and times, Course Selection and much more.

Student information sessions will take place prior to the Information Evening which will include the same topics as the information night, thus allowing for rich discussions prior to and after the Information Evening.

The goal of the “Choices for Nine” program is that every grade 8 student and family will be equipped with the information to make an informed and confident decision for choosing an appropriate secondary school program.

Self- Discovery:

The emotional and social needs of our students are very important. There will be on going age-appropriate presentations and/or discussions on topics that will address these needs. A few of the topics that will be addressed include: Who Am I -understanding learning styles/interests, Importance of Values -extrinsic vs intrinsic, Goal Setting –establishment of short/mid and long term goals, Organizational skills and Building Resiliency and Embracing Change.

To keep you informed with the ongoing Guidance and Career Education Programs taking place at the school, updates will be placed in school’s monthly newsletter along with the school’s student support site.

I am always happy to talk to the families of students. You are the most important people in your child’s life! If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at the school or via email

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Looking forward to another great year.

Bianca Angheloni

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