

Sept. 30, 2011

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Welcome back! We are already off to a productive start and it has been wonderful to re-connect with the students and get back into our school routine.

I am writing to inform you that we find ourselves in a good but unusual situation. As you may be aware, provincial legislation requires that school districts not exceed class size maximum numbers for kindergarten (22 students), primary (24 students), and intermediate (30 students) classes. However, in addition to class size maximums, school districts are also required to adhere to district averages that are smaller than those numbers and are also mandated by legislation.

This can be confusing and requires some explanation. For example, at primary, although the class size maximum is 24 students, the district average must not be higher than 21. That means that if were to run a class of 24 primary students, then another school in the district would be required to have a class of 18 in order to average to 21.

Consequently, in order to not exceed the district average at primary, the school district is required to add an additional teacher to our school. The good news for the Alice Brown community is that this will enable us to add another division at the grade 3 level. This will reduce the need for a grade 3 / 4 split class and reduce the class sizes for several of our intermediate divisions. Our kindergarten to grade 2 classes will not be affected at all. However, this will require some reconfiguration of students in classes from grades 3 to 7.

We realize that it is not ideal to be making changes to our classes as school is already underway, however, the benefit to all of the children and families in the school will be significant. Our staff has been working very thoughtfully and carefully over the last 24 hours to re-work class placements for several of our students, and our new configuration will be in place and effective as of Monday, October 3. These new class structures will be permanent for the year and we are not able to change them.

I realize that you may have questions, and I am willing to make myself available for any parent who wishes to speak with me in person about the situation on Wednesday Oct. 5 at 9 AM in the library.

It is the wish of all staff to ensure your child has the best and most positive educational experience possible. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and look forward to continuing the positive year we have already begun.

Sincerely,

Deb Page
Principal

c.c. Mrs. Claire Guy: Director of Instruction