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**staracademy\***  
a unique independent school

Star Academy 905-891-1555

### ***A NEW SCHOOL YEAR – a message from Belinda Bernardo***



With only a few days left before school begins, the excitement is growing! A new school year brings feelings of happiness, anticipation and yes, some anxiety – from staff and students alike! We are all looking forward to a year full of wonderful events, sports, music, drama and of course the excellent academics that we are known for and take pride in. Thank you for taking part in this journey with us!

### ***PLEASE READ***

The best way to communicate to you the overall happenings at Star our newsletter will now be emailed to you **ONCE A MONTH**. You will receive the monthly news on the last Friday of each month. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy, please notify the office and a copy will be sent home with your child each month.

The newsletter will contain important dates to mark in your calendar, classroom news, student work, school events and other important information for you.

We are looking forward to an exciting year and look forward to sharing with you some of the accomplishments along the way!

### ***WELCOME***

Welcome to all of you – those that have been with us a number of years to those just beginning. As we enter our 12<sup>th</sup> year we are excited about the programmes, experiences and accomplishments you and your child are going to experience with us this year. It is a privilege to have you with us, so prepare yourselves for a wonderful journey. Take a picture or make notes to yourself now about your child. Then I encourage you to reflect on these in a few months time – you will be amazed at the progress your child has made!

### ***TERRY FOX RUN***

This year we have chosen to do the Terry Fox Run on Friday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. We encourage all of you to join in this walk/run in our neighbourhood as we will walk/run together and then have a celebration and various activities out in the school yard! Further details regarding fundraising will be in your child's agenda next week – so mark your calendar now and join us in this great community event!

## ***LAST MINUTE CHECK LIST***

Just a quick reminder of some important things for the first day – and every school day following!

- We are a NUT FREE school.
- Please be at school no later than 8:15 a.m.
- On the first day please bring \$15 for your child's agenda and senior students also need \$20 for their math textbook.
- IF you are still waiting for your uniform order, please wear a plain dark shirt, preferably with a collar, otherwise full uniform is expected. Please check the parent manual for further details.
- We prefer backpacks without wheels as they fit into the lockers and don't drag in the dirt and snow!
- Please bring shoes for outside AND inside as this helps to keep the school clean and dry.
- Please make sure your child has proper running shoes for gym that will provide the necessary support to prevent injury.
- I/S students are encouraged to bring a memory stick to take work home at night rather than transporting a laptop – a \$30 memory stick is cheaper than computer repairs!
- We do accept "gently used" paper to do our part for a green planet. Please drop off any paper used only on one side.
- We encourage all lunches and snacks to be healthy and with minimal packaging – preferably re-useable containers.
- When the weather is warm and dry we will be eating our lunches outside.
- No electronic gadgets (phones, iPods, DS, etc.) are permitted at school. If your child brings a cell phone for transportation safety, it MUST be dropped off in the office upon arrival at school.
- Please label all of your child's belongings.
- Please bring your completed Medical and Permission Forms on Tuesday.

Thank you for taking a moment to check through this list and ensure that your child is starting their year on the right foot with everything they need to have a successful year!



## ***COMMUNITY CITIZENS***

All Star students take an active part in helping our Star community function. Whether it's helping a younger student zip their coat, wiping the lunch tables, picking up litter on the yard or just keeping their desk organized, every bit of help is appreciated. Not only do Star students gain a strong academic foundation, they also become community minded.

## ***PATTY'S CORNER***

Patty Planques is a parent that has been with us a number of years and has taken on the role of "Parent Volunteer Coordinator". Just as we ask the students to become active community members, we encourage you to also help where you can. Patty will be at our Parent Night and will have the opportunity to meet all of you and will also have sign up forms indicating how you would be able to help.

Some volunteers we are looking for include:

- One parent from each class to act as a class liaison
- Parents to help with Friday lunches (even one Friday is a help!)
- Parents to serve Thanksgiving lunch
- And so much more...

Stay tuned for regular updates from Patty!

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*Excellence is the  
gradual result of  
always striving to do  
better.*

*Pat Riley*

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## ***GYM SHIRTS***

The JI, IS and Senior students are required to change for gym class. The gym uniform is dark shorts, proper running shoes and a *my\* t-shirt*. Some students may have their shirt from last year others may have their summer Star shirt which they can use. Samples of shirts will be available at the Parent Night and each shirt is \$20.



## ***PRIMARY PARTICULARS***

I look forward to another exciting year at Star Academy. This will be my fifth year teaching the Primary class, and I am anxious to begin a new journey with my students. It is an honour to have the opportunity to give many students their very first experience with school, and I take great pride in assuring that it is a pleasant, comforting one. My biggest reward is hearing from parents that their child loves coming to school, and I hope to instill this anticipation in all of my students this year.

September will be a fun-filled month for the Primary students. The three themes students will be exploring for this month are “Nutrition,” “Shapes” and “Colours.” In math students will develop one-to-one correspondence, make number sets, compare length, sort and compare objects, tally results of an inquiry and explore patterning. Healthy eating and rules and responsibilities will be the focus in science and social studies in September. A foundation for reading will be laid as students are introduced to pattern stories and phonics to develop basic reading skills.

Ms. Jacobson [primary@staracademy.ca](mailto:primary@staracademy.ca)

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*The miracle is – the  
more we share, the  
more we have.*

*Leonard Nimoy*

## ***JUNIOR JOT NOTES***

Hello and welcome to an exciting year at Star Academy! We would like to extend a warm welcome to this year’s members of the Junior class-room and share with you some information about ourselves and the new school year.

Prior to joining Star Academy, both of us were fortunate enough to gain extensive experience teaching not only in Ontario but at international schools throughout the world, in countries ranging from India to Malta to Austria. We have a combined range of qualifications and specialties on top of our teacher certificates, including special education, foreign language and ESL instruction.

We have lots of fun things planned for this year. Units of study in September include plants, fairy tales, a review of Math skills, and many art projects and activities. As always, field-trips are planned for September and October; details will follow. We look forward to working with you and your child and we are anticipating a candid and ongoing communication with both yourselves and your children – rest assured that we will do our best to keep you as informed as possible. Please feel free to contact us at any time - we can be reached via email at [junior@staracademy.ca](mailto:junior@staracademy.ca); alternatively, you may book an appointment to come and speak with us personally. Here’s to a great year together!

Miss Bass-West and Ms. Winterford [junior@staracademy.ca](mailto:junior@staracademy.ca)



## ***JI - JUGGLING EVENTS***

My Name is Charlene Zanussi and I would like to welcome you and your child to the JI class. I am looking forward to continuing to get to know those students who I was fortunate to teach last year and getting to know those students who are new to the JI class and those who are new to Star Academy. This year we as a class are going to take a *leap in to learning* approach, I have planned many exciting and interesting activities for the upcoming school year.

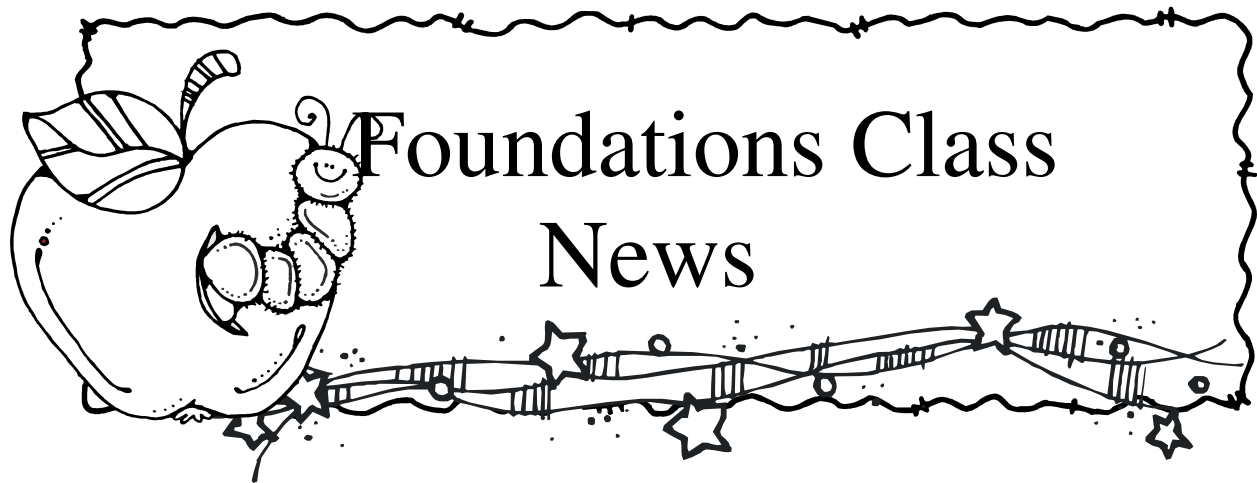
The JI class will achieve much this year in terms of academic growth, self confidence, and social skills. Good communication between parents, teacher, and students is very important to your child's academic growth. Please use the agenda daily, it is a great tool! I ask that you sign the agenda each day to ensure you are aware of the events, activities, and assignments taking place within and out of the classroom.

During the month of September we will be working on number sense in Math, students will use games and manipulatives along with worksheets to explore topics of skip counting, place value, rounding, and number lines. Our Social Studies unit will be Habitats and Communities, this unit will have the students investigate their own habitat, animal habitats, and owl pellets to introduce food chains. In literacy we will be focusing on reading, writing, and non-fiction. Students will use the skills they learn during the non-fiction unit to help them with the mini Habitat research project. Students will be given twenty minutes of reading each night for homework and will be responsible for recording their reading using a daily reading log. Look for more information regarding reading logs during the first week of school.

I would like to briefly describe the homework policy. Students in the JI class will receive 30-45 minutes of homework each day. Homework is meant to be a tool used to improve skills we have worked on during the day. Students should be able to independently complete this work. If homework is proving either too difficult or too easy please write me a note in the agenda. Homework will be checked at the beginning of each day, those who do not complete their homework will be sent to homework club during lunch, unless a note is received describing the circumstance behind the incomplete homework that night.

I am anticipating a wonderful year and am excited to work with you and your children this year. Please feel free to contact me at any time at [ji@staracademy.ca](mailto:ji@staracademy.ca), or make an appointment at the office. Here's to an exciting school year in the JI class!

Ms Zanussi and Ms. Houssin [ji@staracademy.ca](mailto:ji@staracademy.ca)



## **Welcome Back to Star!**

**I am pleased to welcome the students and parents of the Foundations Programme back to Star Academy this year. I look forward to an excellent year of learning and growing!**

### *Reminders:*

- Class begins promptly at 8:30am.
- Be sure to have all the required supplies with you
- Wear your uniform

### **What's happening this month?**

*Math:* We will be learning more about number sense and how it relates to our lives with place value, rounding, skip counting and moving on to the operations.

*Literacy:* This month students **will be learning about compassion. We will we reading books and novels** as learning about the parts of a story. Students will be reviewing their cursive/printing skills.

I am on your side- as an advocate for your child. If you have any questions please feel free to set up an appointment with me through the office of email me at [foundations@staracademy.ca](mailto:foundations@staracademy.ca)

Best Regards,  
Mrs. Jane Lloyd [foundations@staracademy.ca](mailto:foundations@staracademy.ca)

## *I/S INTRIGUING NEWS*

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Intermediate Senior class at Star Academy. We hope that you had an enjoyable summer break. We are both excited to begin a very busy and successful school year!

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you a preview of highlights that we have planned for the 2008/2009 academic year. The very beginning of the year will have a strong emphasis on establishing rules, routines, and respect. It is crucial that students consistently come to class on time, prepared and ready to learn.

The first novel study will be based around the book, *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. Students will have the chance to learn and discuss the effects of what it was like to be Jewish at the time of the Holocaust. In math, students will work on building a strong foundation in number sense and numeration to be successful throughout the year. Other highlights include biodiversity, sentence structure, poetry and short stories.

The major year-end assignment that we have planned will allow students to collaborate as a class to create a digital yearbook. We anticipate this to be a project that will be very exciting to our class as each student will play an integral role in putting this together. When the assignment is complete, students will each get a personal copy of the digital yearbook and be able to share with others the memories they have created throughout the year.

While we will always strive towards academic excellence, we also want to focus on the social development of your child. As a result of a strong passion for traveling that the both of us share, we plan to expose your child to different cultures, people and places so that they can further understand and appreciate the diversity of our world.

We highly value open communication and feel that it is necessary in maintaining consistency and optimizing success for your child. Please do not ever hesitate to give us a call, or to email us at [is@staracademy.ca](mailto:is@staracademy.ca) if you ever have any questions, comments or concerns in regards to your child.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Morley and Ms. Selena Chan [is@staracademy.ca](mailto:is@staracademy.ca)

## SENIOR SNAPSHOT

Dear parents,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! We are very excited about the upcoming year, and have planned many interesting and challenging activities for the students.

September will be a month of getting back into the school routine. Returning seniors will notice several changes in the classroom layout, schedule and daily routines. We are expecting a period of adjustment and are confident that both students and parents will embrace the changes. For the first week back, students can expect to review expectations of the school and classroom while they get themselves organized for the busy year ahead.

We think it is vital to each student's progress to maintain efficient home-school communication throughout the year. You can be confident that we will contact you on a regular basis to keep you informed of school happenings. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at [senior@staracademy.ca](mailto:senior@staracademy.ca) or by phone.

Sincerely,

Miss Asta      Mrs. Farrell [senior@staracademy.ca](mailto:senior@staracademy.ca)

### Curriculum Connections

<p><b>Language Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will begin the year with Literature Circles surrounding a Native Theme.</li> <li>Writing lessons and assignments will focus on paragraph organization and constructions. Students will also review appropriate editing and revising techniques.</li> <li>Seniors will begin a program of Extension Reading which will focus on grammar and vocabulary development. Each student will work through an individualized program.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Math – Grade 7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will begin the year reviewing Number Sense, including fractions, decimals, percent &amp; ratio.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Geography – Grade 7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will look at the Five Themes of Geography, as well as reviewing mapping skills.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Geography – Grade 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will explore Patterns in Human Geography.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Math – Grade 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will begin the year reviewing Number Sense, including factors, BEDMAS, fractions, ratio &amp; percent.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seniors will begin the year in Music looking at the History of Rock &amp; Roll.</li> <li>In Art class, students will further explore Elements of Design.</li> </ul>	<p><b>French</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will be reviewing vocabulary and grammar. They will also begin an exciting project on French Speaking Countries.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September will be a month of preparation for the Seniors. They will review Lab processes and procedures that will prepare them for the challenging year ahead.</li> </ul>

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*learn to love to learn*

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.staracademy.ca](http://www.staracademy.ca)

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## **CLUBS**

We regularly offer a variety of clubs during the lunch hour for all students. There is no mandatory attendance – students just come if they want to.

The first clubs to be offered until the October break include:

- Tuesday at noon – Senior Girls Club
- Wednesday at noon – Soccer Club for students in the Primary, Junior and JI class

Watch for new clubs to begin after the October break.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Tuesday September 2 – First day of school
- Tuesday September 9 – Parent Night @ 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday September 9 – Senior Girls Club begins @ noon
- Wednesday September 10 – P – JI Soccer Club begins @ noon
- Tuesday September 16 – Parent Night for new families @ 6:30
- Monday September 22 – Smile it's Picture Day!
- Friday September 26 - Terry Fox Run/Walk- everyone welcome 1:00
- Friday September 26 – October's Newsletter

## **BALANCING LD CONFERENCE**

Star Academy Charity along with LDAM is pleased to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Balancing LD Conference. Mark your calendars for Thursday November 6, 2008 and reserve your tickets now!

Dr. Kenny Handleman and Ron Moorish will be the keynote speakers at this year's event focusing on managing behaviour at home and school.

*There is always a lot happening in the Star Academy community! Make sure you stay in touch through this monthly newsletter! If you would like this newsletter to reach you at another email address please let us know at [info@staracademy.ca](mailto:info@staracademy.ca)*