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Winter is Coming: Inclement Weather Policy



Whether you love or hate winter, it is inevitably on its way. And due to our large catchment area which includes a variety of different weather zones, we thought it best to share the details of how we manage inclement winter weather before we actually get some.

The primary rule of thumb is this: if, at any time, parents feel it is unsafe to send their child to school due to weather or road conditions, simply call or email us to let us know your child will be absent from school for the day. Likewise, if the weather deteriorates during the day and you wish to pick up your child early, just call or email to inform us of your plans. In either case, students will be responsible for any work missed.

There might be some days where we determine it is too unsafe for anyone to travel to school, and in this case, we will close the school for the day. We have created a phone tree whereby teachers will call your home number (followed by Parent #1's cell number, if no one can be reached at the initial number) to let you know that school is closed. We have one designated staff come in to the campus for the morning, in case anyone missed the message and arrives at school. In that case, students will be turned around as without adequate supervision, we cannot have students on campus.

Information about a campus closure would also be posted on our website. Campus closure decisions are based on a number of factors: weather reports in the primary regions from which we draw students and teachers, MTO road reports, and Durham region school bus cancellations. If we decide that school is closed, any tests or assessments scheduled will be moved to the next school day. Should you have any questions, please call or email us at the campus. And stay safe this winter!

Experiential Learning in HPC3O - Grade 11 Parenting Healthy Children: The Egg Baby Project

Students in Ms. Kupovic's HPC3O class have recently learned quite a bit about some of the challenges faced by parents of young babies.

On Wednesday November 1, four "egg babies" were born in Whitby. They were adopted by three of our students - Aaminah (Gr.12) became a proud mother to Shelley; Payton (Gr.11) took baby boy Gavroche, and Skylar (Gr.11), a twin herself, adopted twin babies Charlotte and Charlie (the latter named after her own twin brother).

The students were tasked with creating safe "beds" for their newborns prior to their arrival, and were on call with their babies for a full week.

When the class was first told of the project, Payton felt "pretty scared... I thought I would break him. But I was also really excited at the same time". Isn't that how most prospective parents feel when they learn they are expecting?

All of the students found the extra responsibility and the need to always be thinking about the egg baby's wellbeing to be the greatest challenges of this project. Payton was constantly concerned about Gav's safety, while Skylar became frustrated that everything took so much longer to do - again, fairly accurate representations of how new parents feel much of the time.

The clear learning stemming from this project is just how much responsibility is required to be a good parent. Skylar feels more prepared as a result of this experience, but also acknowledges that twins are a lot more work than single babies - something her parents learned sixteen years ago; while Payton feels that babies are still a long way in her future - perhaps a little longer now than before she experienced the Egg Baby project.

Kudos to Ms. Kupovics and her students - all of the egg babies successfully made it through the week!



Charlotte and Charlie Smit - Skylar's twins



Gavroche (or Gav as he is better known) - Payton's egg baby

MEET THE TEACHERS

Sarah Oakley

Campus Administrator

Joined: August 2013

Please describe your teaching experience prior to joining us at Blyth Whitby.

I joined Blyth Academy Whitby for the 2013-2014 school year. Prior to that, I supply taught for five years with the public school board, and worked as a barista at Starbucks. While I wouldn't change those five years, I love that I found a home here at Blyth Academy Whitby.

What hobbies and interests do you have?

I love to read, though these days it's been more Robert Munsch and Eric Carle than Jodi Picoult and Chuck Palahniuk. My house often smells of baking. I'm always trying a new recipe. My favourite hobby of all is hanging out with my husband and daughter.

What are you most excited about this year?

Aside from all of the really cool learning opportunities I get to witness from the front desk I'm also incredibly excited for all of our Blyth Gives Back campaigns. We have had such great success in the past few years, and have helped out so many different places in our community. I can't wait to see what our students and families do this year!

If you became famous, what would it be for?

If I became famous, I would like to think it would be for a baking show; however, I cannot decorate a cake to save my life... so it would more likely be for my ability to learn names quickly. Do they make people famous for that?



Sarah Oakley

Chantelle Judge

Middle School teacher (Language Arts, social studies, visual art)

Pink House

Joined: April 2015

Please describe your teaching experience prior to joining us at Blyth Whitby.

This is my second full year at Blyth Academy. Prior to teaching at Blyth I taught for a year in Nunavut. I taught at a K-12 school where I was responsible for teaching Technology and Visual Arts across all grades. I lived and worked there with my family for one year and experienced a great deal of challenging and unforgettable experiences that have helped to shape the teacher I am today.

What hobbies and interests do you have?

Outside of being a mom to three amazing children, teaching full time, and renovating our home, I enjoy painting, drawing, reading, going to movies, watching Netflix, and eating lobster (though not as often as I would like).

What are you most excited about this year?

I am very excited about our new Middle School space and our growing student population. We have so much fun together in Middle School and now thanks to our new space we have more room to grow and learn.

If you became famous, what would it be for?

Hmm, this is tough because I actually don't want to be famous, but if I had to be famous for something I feel it would be something weird like having the most owl decor, and I'd be featured on an episode of Strange Addictions. I have a lot of owl decor, but I like to tell people that I liked owls before they were 'cool'.



Chantelle Judge

We would also like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to a much-loved and longstanding Blyth Whitby teacher, Mr. Michael Judge. Mr. Judge started his teaching career with Blyth at our Lawrence Park campus in 2012, and has been with us in Whitby since 2014. We thank him for his years of service, for helping countless students over the years in the areas of math and science, and for bringing lunchtime chess and after school baseball to Blyth Whitby. We wish him the best of luck in his new position with the Durham District School Board.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Monday November 13 and Tuesday November 14

- High School Term 1 final exams - exams are written at 9am each day, and students will be dismissed when they have completed their exam
- Middle School Progress Report parent/teacher interviews from 3:40 - 5:40pm each day. If you have yet to book yours, please [email](#) Sarah to do so. Students are welcome (and encouraged) to attend with their parents.

Wednesday November 15

- PD Day for Middle and High School students - campus is closed for the day

Thursday November 16

- First day of term 2 classes for High School students
- music program starts for Middle School students - welcome to teacher Ms. Natalie Garcia!

Wednesday November 22

- Town Hall Meeting with CEO and founder, Sam Blyth (adjusted schedule to come)

Friday November 24

- Foundations trip to Durham Escape Rooms during Period 3

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STAY CONNECTED:

