

June 3, 2010

Dear New Kindergarten Students, Parents and Guardians:

The coming weeks and months are exciting times for new students as they set their sights on their first day of school. On behalf of your School Board and Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO), and in anticipation of that big day in September, I would like to provide you with the following information concerning transportation services.

New Students and their families can expect a call from their bus company prior to the first day of school advising of bus stop locations and pick-up and drop-off times. In addition, after August 23, you can call into the STSCO office to confirm bus information (see contact information below).

Also, over the summer and throughout the school year, in order to increase student awareness of bus safety and to provide families with bus routing information, the following events and services will be offered:

- ★ **Student Transportation Services Website** - To learn more about bus safety, student transportation (including summer school routing) and STSCO, please visit our website at "www.stsco.ca".
- ★ **First Rider Program sessions** - These events will be held over the last few weeks of August and will involve a fun introduction to safety training and a first bus ride for our youngest students. Dates and locations for these sessions are provided on the page attached to this Memo. Please note the information on your home calendar and take part if you are able to.
- ★ **Wrist Band Program** - For Kindergarten and other young students, schools will be provided with wrist bands which will be offered to parents for use in recording the student's bus route, stop information and school name. If the need arises at the start of the school year, this will help the student, as well as school staff and bus drivers, determine their proper bus. Although the program is optional, families are encouraged to take part.
- ★ **"Buster the Bus"** - Buster is a motorized, talking miniature school bus which, along with his friendly operators, will visit many elementary schools to provide a presentation on school bus safety. We have offered this program for a number of years and it has been well received.
- ★ **Bus Safety and Emergency Evacuation Training** - Periodically, during each school year, bus companies will visit schools to offer training sessions aimed at teaching students bus safety rules and what to do in case of an emergency. The program helps keep safety in the forefront for students.

Families and students are encouraged to take advantage of the noted events and services. Any questions concerning the programs can be directed to the STSCO office (local phone number 748-5500 or toll free 1-800-757-0307, ext. 231 for Clarington, ext. 232 for Northumberland; and ext. 242 or ext.241 for Peterborough).

We wish you and your family an enjoyable summer and look forward to serving your needs in the fall.

Sincerely,

Joel Sloggett
Chief Administrative Officer