

# 7M NEWS

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## Ready, Set, Go!

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year at HJC! We're about to begin a journey that is sure to change lives, grow character, and leave behind long-lasting memories. You're invited to be part of the process, of course; any comments/questions are welcomed. I consider them to be critical in order to ensure your child has a successful learning experience this year.

## Who's the Old Guy?

This will be my fourth year at HJC, having taught Grades 5 through 8 in previous years. Prior to arriving in Belleville in 2003, I taught high school students in Media Studies, English, and HPE in Kitchener.

I am passionate about reading and writing. I love music, and have an extensive sports and journalism background. I believe that every young person brings value to a classroom, and I look forward to exploring the students' numerous talents as we progress through the school year.

## What's Going On In There?

I thought you might like to know what we'll be doing academically to start things off this month.

In Language, we'll begin our writing and reading workshops, as well as a cool Poetry Anthology. Further, each student will have a daily writing journal, and I expect to have several "published" works from our group before year's end. I am a tiger when it comes to reading and writing, and I trust that you will support me in developing this crucial skill.

In History, we will start with the investigation of our nation's earliest settlers and the conflicts that ensued. There will be no Geography study until the second term.

Mr. Brett Davis, my teaching partner in Grade 7, will be handling the instruction for my students in Science and HPE. I will take his students for History/Geography and Media Studies.

In Mathematics, we will begin with some essential skills and problem-solving. The students will receive French instruction (Mme. Leslie) externally as per previous years. The Visual Arts, Music, and Drama/Dance portions of the curriculum will be interspersed within other subject areas as well as in weekly period segments.

## A Plan for the Planner!

I strongly believe that students need to develop superior organizational skills at this grade level. The planner **must** be at-the-ready on a daily basis – and I will be on the students like a bear on a mackerel if they start getting sloppy with planner use. I'll be placing adhesive labels in the planners when assignments are missed, so you (and I) can keep track of a student's work habits.

## Odds 'n Ends

Our annual Family BBQ is this Wednesday, Sept. 15, 5-6:30 p.m. Look forward to meeting you then.

Our Hockey Night in Belleville fund-raiser is Saturday, Sept. 25. Tickets can be secured from the main office.

## Still Ready to Go?

It's a big year for the students ... the first plunge into the Intermediate Division, new surroundings, new classmates, new programming. I have high expectations. I expect them to enter the building ready to learn - every day.

That's it for now. I'm looking forward to a great start to 2010-2011. Contact me at any time, if necessary. In fact, if you wish to communicate regularly this year electronically, send me a quick "hello" to my e-address, and I'll keep a family file.

Michael G. Mitchell

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Plenty of activity this year online. Further information to follow.

Visit these sites: [<http://mgmitchell.blogspot.com>] [<http://harryjclarke.wikispaces.com>]

