

Hello Ryan School Families,

We have completed our first full week of school with quite a feeling of success. I hope you enjoyed the Open Houses and meeting your child's teachers. I got quite a bit of positive feedback from the teachers as they are very excited to work with you and your child this year.

Recently, I have been contacted by a couple of grade 5 parents/guardians who have expressed concerns around the recess process/procedures so I felt it best to address with all families. The primary concern is around separating the students by teams during their recess time and the recess time being deemed "highly structured." At the Ryan, lunch and recess times are monitored by the teachers and aides on staff. Historically, we have separated teams *as needed* based on the number of students at that recess and any safety concerns we are aware of in advance. Also, we strongly encourage students to make new friends with peers on their new team as the school year begins in order to build a sense of belonging on their team. In the past, as all of the teachers get to know students on other teams, the students have had a joint recess if it is possible. As we are only at day 11 of school, this has not yet happened because the teachers are still learning their students, but it is quite likely to happen in the future. While on the playground, students are given general safety rules but are otherwise allowed to play and socialize. I hope this sheds some clarification on the recess time and how it is run at this point in time. Further consideration will be given to our recess practices as the year progresses.

Thank you,
Judi McInnes
Principal

