

Parent School Council held their first meeting this morning. A big thank you to all who attended. Your participation in the decisions made for your child's school is very welcome and we value the different thoughts and ideas that were brought forth.

An important topic that was addressed this morning was **traffic safety** in our school parking lot and on the roads surrounding the school. It is a busy place and everyone wants to ensure the safety of our children. . The discussion included questions as to the protocols of the parking lot as well as ideas to improve the safety of our children. Please read the following information carefully

We know that every parent's priority is the safety of their children and we are positive that our Jean Vanier 'village' has the best interests of ALL students and families at heart. **Please join us in making our parking lot safe and abiding by these rules to ensure that safety.**

1) **Our parking lot is shared with the families attending Glen Allen School.** The row of parking nearest the main road is marked for their parent population. It is also important to **not park or line up BEHIND** these spots/cars while you wait for your child(ren) to be dismissed, as those parked are then unable to back out and clear the parking lot. Being unable to do so then **impedes the flow of traffic** in the entire lot.

We understand that the parking lot fills up quickly, and significantly earlier than the bell rings, however **a line up of cars waiting for dismissal creates an unsafe environment for our children.** The students are ducking between and in front of or behind cars that are not properly parked and may begin moving. It is often hard to see little bodies walking by and increases the risk of someone being hit.

2) **The drop off zone near the front doors is for quickly dropping off your child(ren) in the morning.** Parking your car and getting out of your vehicle impedes the flow of traffic and ultimately results in other drivers trying to drive around you on a very tight stretch of road, in an area where children are crossing to get to the front doors. Please ensure your children are ready to get out of your vehicle quickly so you can continue to drive and clear the area. If you or your child require more time, please pull into a parking stall.

This drop off zone is also NOT a parking stall, and is marked accordingly. Effective immediately, the area will be blocked off for afternoon pickup. Parking is to be done in an appropriate spot.

3) **The road along the exit of the parking lot is clearly marked No Parking.** Cars parked along this curb are in the way of cars trying to exit the lot onto the main road. The width of the road does not allow for parked vehicles and moving traffic. When this area is blocked, traffic backs up the entire way around the lot. Please park in an appropriate stall or on the road.

4) There is **no left turn** into the Jean Vanier lot from Georgian Way when travelling west. Vehicles quickly back up along Georgian Way while waiting to turn into the lot, which interferes with buses, emptying of the parking lots and general flow of traffic.

5) **Please have your children walk along sidewalks and cross at the crosswalk in the parking lot.** If parked in the middle rows of stalls, ensure children are watched or accompanied across the road, as it coincides directly with the drop off zone and traffic turning in or entering the lot. It is a busy spot and some parents have witnessed children almost being hit by cars! We want to ensure that never happens!

6) **There is no parking in the staff lot.**

We hope that answers any questions our families may have about the traffic around our school. Our goal as a Parent School Council is to support our staff and students in all ways possible. We know our Jean Vanier families are involved and supportive also. We hope we can work together to alleviate the frustrations and safety concerns many of you have seen and expressed. We know life is busy and mornings, especially, can be hectic, but we also want our wonderful children to make it to and from school as safely as possible. That begins with all of us.

Lastly, there has been a traffic safety committee created at Jean Vanier which will be partnering with Glen

Allen school, RCMP, bylaw and Strathcona County personnel to educate and support these laws and guidelines. We value your participation as well. Our different experiences and ideas are valuable in creating effective change. Please let us know if you would like to participate by emailing our PSC email at jvpac1009@gmail.com.

Thank you for your participation!
Jean Vanier Parent School Council