Dear Family,

Welcome back everyone. This school year is shaping up to be a great one, how could it not after the weather we had this summer? Our students and staff are ready to do great things and everything appears to be going quite smoothly. As we begin the year we would like to welcome our new staff: counsellors Aidan Donnely and Amy McFeely, teachers Jackie Ellsworth (math/science), and Samantha Perry (English/social studies/math), our new Educational Assistants Marlene MacNeill, Terry Phillips, Heather Carver, and Michelle Gamble and our new secretary Marsha Morrissey. Jaclyn Gallant will be with us for six weeks filling in on a medical leave. We are pleased to have you with us in these positions. We would like to welcome the following people back from leave: Andrew MacDougald, Heidi Morgan, Rachel Rennie, and Sabrina Sharpe.

Again we will be offering two Advanced Placement (AP) courses this year. These are in the areas of Biology (Ms. Hudson) and Chemistry (Ms. Getson). Again we look forward to the challenge and what it will bring to all of our students as through the AP program so far we have received a good supply of new lab equipment that will benefit all of our students.

Our Meet the Teacher/Parent Night is set for Wednesday, September 22. We will begin with an assembly for parents at 6:30 in the theatre. Parents will then attend a shortened version of their student’s four classes. We will be holding our first Parents’ Council meeting directly following at around 8:00. We would like as many of you as possible to stay for the Parents’ Council meeting as we find these meetings informative and worth your time and unlike some other meetings, our Parents’ Council does not assign jobs to people nor make them fundraise. This is a chance for you to have a voice in our school and in the education of your student. Please note that Mr. Darcy Harris will be away at a leadership conference with students during the Meet the Teacher night. If you have any questions and wish to give him a call or send him an e-mail, he would appreciate it.

Westisle’s 30th Annual Terry Fox Run/Walk/Bike and back to school BBQ will take place on Friday, Sept. 17. All students are encouraged to take part in this very worthwhile event and to remember what Terry’s dream was..... to find a cure for cancer. The day will be organized by the Leadership Class.

Westisle’s fall sports teams will be holding tryouts this week and any interested students are encouraged to come out. We are still looking for coaches for our mens’ soccer team and our #2 mens’ volleyball team. If we cannot find coaches, these programs will not be offered this fall.

Tryout dates: Women’s Soccer, Tuesday, Sept. 7 (3-5:00), Wednesday, 8th (5-7:00), Thursday, 9th (3-5:00), and Friday, 10th (3-5:00).

Women’s Volleyball, Tuesday, Sept. 7th (5-7:00), Thursday 9th (3-5:00), Monday, 13th (3-5:00).

Men’s/Volleyball, Wednesday, Sept. 8th (3-5:00), Thursday, 9th (3-5:00), Friday, 10th (3-5:00).

Men’s Soccer, ???? (coach needed)

Golf and Cross Country, TBA (see Mr. McAlduff and Mr. Toner for more info.)

The first Busker Club will take place in the school lobby on Wednesday, September 8 after school till 4:15. There will be unicycles, all sorts of juggling and balance props, diablos, ripstik, etc. to use, or learn to use. Lots of fun; everyone is welcome. Busker Club will take place every Wednesday after school. If there is a change of time it will be announced.

The Back to School dance will be held on Thursday, September 09 from 7-10. Doors will open at 6:45 and close at 7:30. Tickets will be on sale during both lunches on the days leading up to the dance and will cost $3.00. This dance is for our students only, no sign-ins.

If anyone notices any of our textbooks around your houses, please return these to the school. We have a few that have not been returned over the years and need these back. Any found can be dropped off at the office, no questions asked. Thank you.

An information session for parents of grade 12 students will be held on September 29 at 7:00 pm in the school theatre. This session will include information on requirements for colleges and universities, scholarships and bursaries, post-secondary application, timelines, campus visits, etc.

There will be a parent information session for parents of grade 11 students on Wednesday, October 6 at 7:00 pm in the theatre. The session will include information on the differences between college and university requirements for colleges and universities, common programs, the importance of grade 11 marks, etc.

We plan to have course changes taken care of by Friday, September 10. If a course change is needed, students must get a course change sheet from their homeroom teacher and it must be filed in the office. These are numbered as they come in and are handled in sequence.

Heckerts will be here to do graduation photos from September 15-23. Lifetouch Canada (Jostens) will be here for school pictures on September 30 to photograph all students. We expect all students to get a school photo taken so we have a record of each student’s picture.

Once again this year we are planning to offer our Breakfast Program. This will run on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for as much of the year as our budget will allow. We are always looking for volunteers and any donations people or organizations can offer. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please call the school @ 853-8626 or Suzanne Murphy @ 882-2773. Volunteering is about a one hour commitment per week and right now we are short a few.

Students are asked to bring in their $15.00 student fee. This can be given in to the homeroom teacher this week or in to the main office next week. Thank you. As well, students have been given a copy of the demographic information (address, phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc.) that we have on file. These pages are bright pink. Please check these over and return them so we can confirm the data or make any necessary changes. All people new to the building must fill in an acceptable user form for computer use before they can get a user name and password. These were given out during our first homeroom. As well a consent form for media photographs was also given out to new students. Please ensure that these forms be returned as soon as possible. Thank you.
The Autism Society of PEI will be hosting a Family Support Meeting Wednesday, September 15th, 2010 at 7:30pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Summerside. We welcome new members to our Society. Please share this information with any individuals who may be interested. Guest speaker this month will be a representative from the Summerside Police Department speaking on Safety Concerns and Working together with your local police department to address Autism. For full meeting information contact Nathalie at 566-4844 or email autism@peiacl.ca

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010 after "Meet the Teacher" for the parents of the grade 10 students in the Agriculture Certificate Program. The first activity for the year will be the Eastern Tour of Prince Edward Island for the grade 10 students. The students will depart early on Thursday, Sept. 16 to join up with the students from KISH and KRHS to tour farms in eastern PEI. They will also participate in the Safe Animal Handling Training at Orwell Corner conducted by students from the Atlantic Veterinary College. The students will be staying at the Rodd Brudenell Resort Thursday night and return on Friday, Sept. 17 around 4:00 PM. The appropriate forms will be given to the students and must be returned by Monday, September 13 to Ms Williams. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call at 853-8626 or e-mail at kawilliams@edu.pe.ca. There will be monthly meetings for all the students in the Agriculture Certificate Program with the first meeting being held on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 3:00 in room 619.

We are going live with Students' Achieve (SAS) later in the month of September. Once all of the course changes are done and all of the classes are set up in the new program, parent passwords will be mailed out for all parents. Marks and attendance data will be available online beginning September 30th.

We look forward to working with you this year. Please visit our website @ www.edu.pe.ca/westisle for information updates and read the Westisle News in one of the three newspapers to find out what is happening around the school. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions or concerns.

Alberton Minor Hockey registration will be held on September 13 and September 16th from 6-8 at the Jacques Cartier Arena. Late registration fee of $25.00 if not registered after these dates.

O’Leary Minor Hockey Registration will be held at the O’Leary Community Sports Centre on the following times: Thursday, September 23, 6:00- 8:00 and Friday September 24 from 6:00-8:00. A Late Fee of $25.00 per player will be charged for anyone registering after the last registration night.

Tyne Valley Minor Hockey Registration will be held on September 17 from 6- 8 pm and September 18 from 10 - 12 am at the Tyne Valley Fire Hall. Late fee will be charged $25.00 after September 18th.

Sincerely,

Charles Murphy
Principal
Westisle Composite High School