September 1, 2013

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

It’s hard to come up with original “letters to the parents” year after year but I authentically hope that you enjoyed a great summer and wish you a wonderful start to the new school year.

**Apprenticeship and Workplace 11**

For most students, Apprenticeship and Workplace 11 is the final Math course that they will ever take (at least in high school). Just a quick (but important) reminder: in order to graduate, students in British Columbia must successfully complete a Math 11 course. In other words: your child *needs* to pass this course.

Now the good news: I teach this course in such a manner that success is almost guaranteed. In spite of this, each year a few students do fail. Here is how they manage it:

1. miss an inordinate amount of classes (more than 10 absences throughout the year often leads to failure)
2. come late to class repeatedly (quizzes are given at the start of class. You need to be there to write them)
3. come to class but exert no effort while there

Notice that there is no mention of homework in the list above. That’s because (in this class) I assign none… assuming enough effort is exerted to get the work done in class.

**A Big Surprise**

My wife and I are expecting a baby in December! Although I am not exactly “old” to be having a new baby (close though), it is quite a shock to everyone (us included) considering we already have a 16-year old daughter at home. We are, of course, excited beyond words with the impending arrival. I will be taking 3 – 4 weeks off once the baby arrives but will do everything in my power to ensure that this does not impact your child’s progress in Workplace 11.

**Useful Websites**

There’s lots of great content at my website: www.wadgemath.ca. On this site, I will post lesson videos, accompanying worksheets, assignments (for students that miss class)… basically *everything* needed to be successful in the course. There is also information on how to contact me.

As well, I will be using www.engrade.com once again to post student marks. Should there ever be a time that you want to check on your child’s mark, you can always use this website (assuming you can convince your child to provide you with their password).

**Contact Information**

I always look forward to hearing from parents throughout the year. I will do my best to communicate with you throughout the year, but I encourage you to email me if you ever have any reason for concern.

Thanks for reading this (rather long) letter. This year is sure to be both eventful and emotional. One last request: if your child comes home in the New Year with complaints of “Mr. Wadge is so grouchy these days” perhaps you could discuss with them the impact of sleep deprivation on new parents. Cheers!

Patrick Wadge

pwadge@vsb.bc.ca

604-713-8999

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Name of Student: Name of Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

1) Please contact me regarding my son / daughter (check the best answer(s) for you):

 \_\_\_ as often as possible

 \_\_\_ from time to time

 \_\_\_ only if it’s “good” news

 \_\_\_ as soon as there is any sign of “trouble” (behaviour or academically)

 \_\_\_ only if things get really “bad” (danger of failing, etc)

 \_\_\_ please don’t contact me

2) I would prefer to be contacted via (please give contact info for your preferences)

 a) home phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 b) work phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 c) email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 d) please don’t contact me

3) Comment / concerns: