

Ontario Public School

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February 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is important that we ensure we are maintaining balance with our families. Please ensure you take some time to care for your physical and emotional health and well-being. What can you do as a family to balance these needs? Take a family walk, play with your dog in the backyard, build a snowman, or perhaps bake some special treats. Sending uplifting messages can also improve our own mood. When we share our gratitude, it helps us feel more positive, build strong friendships, and deal with challenges. Tell someone why they are important to you.

With Term 1 Report Cards and the Kindergarten Communication of Learning coming home on February 17th, this is a great opportunity to reflect on your child's progress and set some goals for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions, comments, and or concerns, please contact your child's teacher. Please see the important information in regard to our Term 1 report cards and the Term 1 Kindergarten Communication of Learning in this newsletter.

ONTARIO SCHOOL CALENDAR AND DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ontario Public School calendar is available on the school website. In addition to our school events, you will find a link to the DSBN Days of Significance calendar on the first of each month. [Click here](#) for more information about the DSBN Days of Significance calendar.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Black History Month.....February
- Popcorn Sales every Wed.....February
- Groundhog Day.....Feb. 2
- 100th Day of School.....Feb. 10
- Valentine's DayFeb. 14
- Term 1 Reports and Kindergarten Communication of Learning go homeFeb 16
- PA Day.....Feb. 17
- Family Day HolidayFeb. 20
- French Immersion Registration EndsFeb. 21
- Pink Shirt Day.....Feb. 22
- Vaccination Clinic.....Feb. 24
- Pizza LunchFeb. 24
- Fun/Wild Hair Spirit DayFeb. 28
- Graduation PhotosMar. 6

PA DAY

On Friday, February 17 all DSBN schools will be closed for a PA Day and all schools will also be closed as we recognize Family Day on Monday, February 21.



PARKING LOT SAFETY REMINDERS

Our parking lot is an incredibly busy place during morning drop off and afternoon pick up and ensuring the safety of our students is a primary concern.

1. Please remind your child(ren) to look both ways in the parking lot. Even though it might not be a street, cars are coming and going, so looking left and right for traffic is important.
2. Bus lines and car lines are separate and we ask that you kindly only enter and exit using the appropriate entry. Please do not enter through the exit or drive through the bus lane.
3. No running or horseplay in the parking lot.
4. Please be patient. Please wait until the car in front has moved prior to proceeding rather than trying to go around a car.
5. If your child can take a bus, please consider this option as this reduces the congestion from cars dropping off and picking up, making the parking lot safer for all our students.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know a child who was born in 2019? If so, spread the word that Kindergarten registration is here! Please visit the [DSBN Kindergarten registration link](#) for more details and save Thursday, February 2, 2023, and drop in anytime between 10:00 – 6:00 pm for our Kindergarten Open House event!



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There are times in Niagara when weather conditions are so poor that we must cancel student transportation, and/or close schools to preserve the safety of students and staff. The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is not taken lightly; a variety of factors are considered when making this choice. To learn more about how these decisions are made, please go to <https://www.dsbn.org/inclementweather>.

Transportation Cancellations:

Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to <https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. When transportation is cancelled, every effort is made to communicate the decision by 6:00 am on the day of the cancellation. There are times when transportation is cancelled, but schools remain open. If, on those days you feel it is best for your child to stay home, please report your child's absence <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/> so we can make sure they are safe at home.

School Closures:

When the decision to close schools is made, it refers to all schools. Every effort will be made to share school closure information before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find it on dsbn.org, all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY

During the month of January, Ontario PS students were recognized for their work as a learner for their learning skills and/or academics, as an individual for their character traits, and as a community member for contributing to the school and/or classroom. December's character trait was "Caring". The following students were recognized:

January's Student of the Month: Optimism

K1 - Kraus	Surah G, Theo R, Beyza U, Heba I	Gr. 3	Frank B, Ali N, Juliette R-L,
K2- Phillips	Justin E, Charlie St. J, Amari S	Gr. 4	Kaedence P, Jahmir O, Samantha V-F
K3- Lirantzis	Ivy T-T, Liam M, Sophia M	Gr. 5	Markus Z, Jack T,
Gr. 1 -T	Maximus R-L, Ahmad H	Gr. 5/6	Santana P, Santaya P, Karla R-J,
Gr. 1 - G	Tait M, Lexi S, Ember M	Gr. 6/7	Carter S, Alex R-J, Barend JVR
Gr. 1/2	Rose L, Bensen F	Gr. 7	Bruin J, Gavin S, Isabella A
Gr. 2	Abdar P, Genesis P, Nicholas Z	Gr. 8	Benji K, Sultan K
Gr. 2/3	Alexis B, Sarah M		

GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

The French Immersion program (offered at French Immersion sites) is open to all Year 2 Kindergarten students from Monday, January 9, 2023, until Tuesday, February 21, 2023. If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer. For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara, [please click here](#).

WINTER IS HERE!

With the cold and wet weather upon us, we have a few reminders for comfortable and safe outdoor play during the winter months:

1. Bring appropriate outdoor clothing to school daily (hat, mitts, jacket, snow pants, and boots).
2. Have dry indoor shoes and keep an extra outfit at school too (in case shirt and pants get wet outside).
3. Students are not permitted to throw snow or slide on ice patches. Students who disobey these rules will be sent indoors to the office. Safety first!

If you need a winter coat, snow pants, boot, hats, gloves, or mitts, please contact the school office by phone or email to inquire about the support we can provide in getting these much needed items for your children.

Kindergarten children will also continue to have outdoor exploration time during the winter months.

Our 2 outdoor fitness breaks will occur regularly throughout the winter. For this reason, it is essential that students come prepared for the weather! We appreciate your efforts!

ENROL AT THE DSBN ACADEMY

DSBN Academy is a very unique school. It is specially designed to support students in becoming the first in their family to graduate from college or university. A Grade 6 to 12 public school, DSBN Academy is for any First Generation Student who is committed to the goal of achieving a post-secondary education.

Interested? Learn about the school at **DSBN Academy's Open House!**

- ❖ **Date:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023
- ❖ **Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- ❖ **Location:** DSBN Academy – 130 Louth Street, St. Catharines

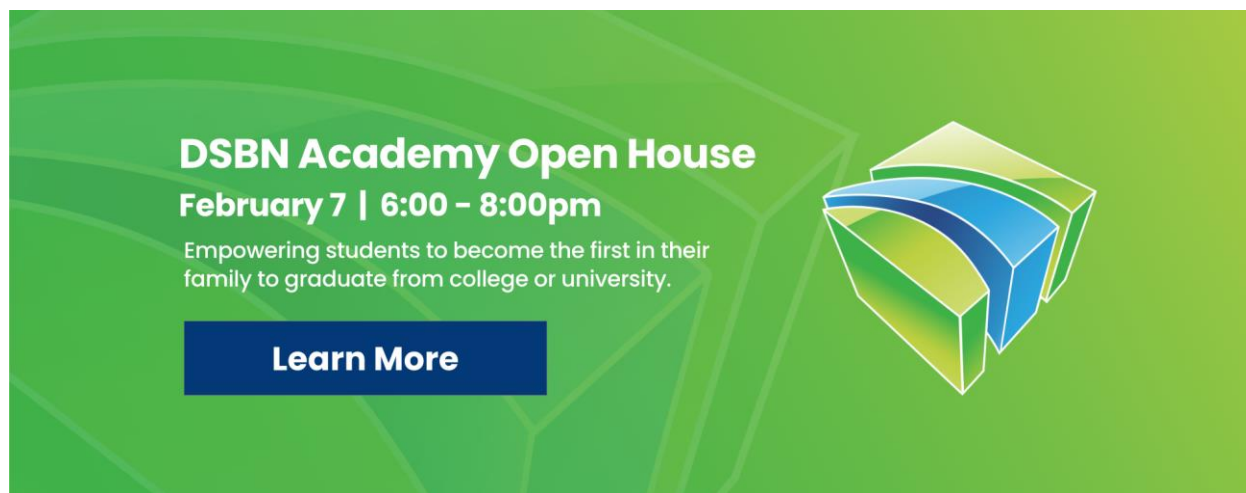
Attend the Open House to find out:

- ❖ How we prepare students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- ❖ What extra opportunities we offer, and how your child can benefit
- ❖ Why DSBN Academy could be a good fit for your child
- ❖ How to become a student at DSBN Academy

[Visit our website](#) to learn all about what DSBN Academy is, and what it takes to become an Argonaut. Online registration will open on **January 10, 2023** here: ACADEMY.DSBN.ORG/APPLY. Registration will close on February 27, 2023.

Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.

Believe. Achieve. Become an Argonaut.



DSBN Academy Open House
February 7 | 6:00 – 8:00pm
 Empowering students to become the first in their family to graduate from college or university.

[Learn More](#)

The graphic features a green background with a subtle geometric pattern. On the right side, there is a stylized 3D cube icon with blue and yellow faces. A dark blue button with white text is positioned at the bottom left of the text area.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – MEETING RESCHEDULE FOR MARCH 7

Our third School Advisory Council meeting was originally schedule for Tuesday, February 7, 2022. We are now moving that meeting until **Tuesday March 7th at 7:00 pm**. New members are always welcome to join on March 7, 2023.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History month. During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today. Just a few of the notable people who have helped shape Canadian heritage and identity are Harriet Tubman, Viola Davis Desmond, and the Honourable Lincoln Alexander. Do you know why Harriet Tubman has a DSBN school named after her? Do you know why Viola Desmond is on the \$10 bill and why we recognize Lincoln Alexander day on January 21? We look forward to celebrating many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians, past and present, throughout the month

VALENTINE'S DAY

As Valentine's Day is approaching, we have been working on reimagining what Valentine's Day will look like this year. We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Students are invited to wear clothing to celebrate the day (red, pink, hearts). Individual classes may have their own classroom-based activities planned for the day, which will include a focus on friendship and kindness and showing our appreciation for our classmates in different ways.

PINK SHIRT DAY – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Anti-Bullying Day, also known as Pink Shirt Day, is recognized on the last Wednesday in February in Canada. Pink Shirt Day is a platform for engaging students and building knowledge in bullying prevention, acts of kindness, upstandership and supporting students through critical conversations. Everyone has the power to prevent bullying. Being an upstander is one of the best ways to make a difference in our school. Pink Shirt Day reminds us that everyday we have the opportunity to do something kind for someone else. What can you do show kindness to someone at school?

FEBRUARY SPIRIT DAYS

Our Knights will be recognizing the following dates with some special activities. We encourage all our Knights to participate. For our spirit days, we love creativity!

Date	Spirit Day	Purpose of the Day
Friday, February 10	100 th Day of School	This is the 100 th day of school. Students are invited to wear something to celebrate 100 th day of learning at Ontario . Let's see how creative we can be Knights!
Tuesday, February 14	Valentines Day	February 14 is Valentines Day and students are encouraged to wear Valentine apparel or red, white, or pink.
Wednesday, February 22	Pink Shirt Day	Pink Shirt Day, is recognized on the last Wednesday in February in Canada
Tuesday, February 28	Fun/Wild Hair Day	Wear your hair in a fun or unusual way!

PIZZA LUNCH -FEBRAURY 24

As per the note sent home the first week back in January, we will be moving to using **School Cash Online** for Pizza Lunches. The pizza form will be available on School Cash Online on **Wednesday, February 1** and will be open until **Tuesday, February 21st at 11:00 pm**. After February 21, pizza orders will be closed and no late orders will be accepted. If you are not set up on School Cash Online, please go to the Ontario Public School website and click the blue button that says School Cash Online and follow the steps to get set up. If you have any trouble getting set up, please call the office and Mrs. Swartz can assist you. Thanks for your support!

Lunch Date	Lunch Option	Order Window through School Cash Online
Friday, February 2, 2023	Little Caesars Pizza Cheese Pizzas	Open now and closes Tuesday, February 21 at 11:00 pm

TERM 1 REPORT CARD UPDATE

Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning

The Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning will be issued on February 17.

Report cards give a summary of student achievement at the end of each term. Teachers use their professional judgement and consider factors such as consistency, recent improvement and amount of evidence in order to determine students' grades or marks. Teachers and students work together to gather evidence of their learning over time from observations, conversations and student products.

This year, the Ontario Ministry of Education updated [the math curriculum](#) for Grades 1 to 8 which started in September 2020. The new mathematics curriculum is part of a [four-year math strategy](#) designed to:

- improve student performance in math
- help students solve everyday math problems
- increase students' employability to attain the jobs of the future

GRADE 8 GRAD PHOTOS – MARCH 6

Grade 8 Graduation photos are tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 6 in the morning. All students are encouraged to wear a white, button-down shirt and a tie for the boys. Further information will be sent home when we get closer to photo day.

NRPH VACCINATION CLINIC – FEBRUARY 24

If your child(ren) need any of their childhood vaccinations, Niagara Region Public Health Department is planning a vaccine clinic at Ontario Public School. The NRPH has booked our school's gym on February 24, 2023 at 8:30am – 11:30am. If you have any question about whether your child needs to update their vaccinations please reach out to the NRPH Department at 905-688-8248 ext. 7291.

ANAPHYLAXIS – BE NUT AWARE!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction to certain food substances. We have students in our school that suffer from a severe allergy which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. An anaphylactic reaction is an allergic reaction so severe that in some cases, it can be life threatening. These children have a severe allergy to nuts. Prevention is the best approach. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in not sending any snacks or lunches containing nut products with your child.

ANAPHYLAXIS – LATEX ALLERGY

This is just a friendly reminder not to send any latex products like balloons to school. We have a staff member with a severe anaphylactic allergy to latex. Thank you for your co-operation.

POPCORN WEDNESDAYS

Popcorn will be on sale every Wednesday for the month of February. The money raised will go the primary trip in June (Grades 1-3). Students from Grade 1 to 8 may purchase a bag of popcorn (butter and salt, dill pickle, or white cheddar) for **\$2.00**. Kindergarten students are taking part, but the popcorn for our Kindergarten students must be pre-ordered as they will be taking their bag of popcorn home. Thank you for your support with this fundraiser.