

Ontario Public School

550 Allanburg Rd
 Thorold, ON
 L2V 1A8
 905.227.2851



November 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

When parents are engaged in their child's learning, the child will do better at school. With this in mind, November is an excellent time to reflect on how we are working together to support your child's learning.

All students will receive their Progress Report Card on Thursday, November 16, marking the mid-way point for Term 1. Please take some time to review, with your child, their strengths and next steps that have been identified in the progress report. On the evening of November 21, you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress to date during the parent-teacher conferences. You will receive information on November 6 from your child's teacher on booking a conference time. If you have any concerns or questions at other times, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Please let the office or your child's teacher know if you require 2 copies of your child's report card.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As cooler weather approaches, please be aware that children are expected to dress appropriately for the weather conditions daily. Coats, hats, boots and mittens/gloves are soon going to be necessary for your child to enjoy the outdoor fitness breaks and gym classes. Students who are well enough to be at school are expected to be outside with their friends during fitness breaks as indoor supervision is not available during this time.

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

- Pizza Lunch Nov. 2
- [Mr. H's Artisan Card Entries Due](#)
..... Nov. 3
- Treaties Recognition Week..... Nov. 5-11
- Indigenous Veteran's Day..... Nov. 8
- Pizza Lunch Nov. 9
- Remembrance Day Nov. 10
- Jamaican Patty Day Nov. 14
- World Diabetes Day – Wear Blue
..... Nov. 14
- Pizza Lunch Nov. 16
- Progress Reports Go Home Nov. 16
- Interview Evening Nov. 22
- Pizza Lunch Nov. 23
- PA Day..... Nov. 24
- School Advisory Council Nov. 28
- Pita Pit Day Nov. 28
- Pizza Day..... Nov. 30

PA DAY

Friday, November 24 has been designated as a PA Day for the District School Board of Niagara.



KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING: INITIAL OBSERVATIONS AND THE ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT – GRADES 1-8

On November 16, students in Kindergarten will bring home the Communication of Learning Initial Observations report. This provides parents/guardians with an overview of the initial observations of their child's learning and early evidence of growth in learning related to the overall expectations in the Kindergarten Program. It also provides information about appropriate next steps to further your child's learning. It serves as the basis for discussion with parents/guardians and as a support for parents'/guardians' ongoing participation in their child's learning.

Also, on November 16, parents of students in Grades 1-8 will receive their Elementary Progress Reports. Although it looks much like the Report Card, the Progress Report has a very different intent. The purpose is to share early and specific feedback on your child's development of work habits and the learning skills. Reporting on the Progress Report is about looking forward and setting a course for the learning journey ahead.

Based on the evidence that teachers see, as well as what teachers know about learning at this grade level, the report communicates the path your child is on towards achieving the grade level expectations by the end of the year. The Progress Report does not include letter grades or percentage marks for academic subjects; it instead identifies whether your child is progressing very well, well or with difficulty. For subjects in which your child is 'Progressing with Difficulty', the teacher will discuss specific next step plans needed for success. Progress reports are intended to be part of discussions, interviews, or conferences with students and are part of ongoing communication with parents and students about student achievement throughout the year.

We look forward to partnering with you and your child for a year of great learning and growth.

MR. H'S ARTISAN CARD CONTEST IS BACK – ENTRIES DUE NOVEMBER 3

The Director's Artisan Card Contest invites students to share their artwork that celebrates all the special occasions, events, and times of year that are important to them. Let your imagination run wild and create artwork to celebrate a month of the year and what makes it special. For information, including the required consent form to enter, please visit: <https://www.dsbns.org/artisan-card-contest>

SUPERVISION REMINDERS

Your child's safety is very important to us at Ontario. To help us keep your child safe, we ask that you keep in mind the supervision schedule for students. Supervision for students begins at 8:45 a.m. Students should not be arriving before 8:45 a.m., as supervision is not provided before that time. When there is inclement weather, students will enter the school starting at 8:45 a.m.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

On Friday, November 10, the students at Ontario will participate in a Remembrance Day assembly and will recognize a moment of silence. We would like to take this opportunity to honour all the family and friends of our school community who have given of themselves to serve Canada. If you have a family member or a friend that you would like to honour during our assembly, please send in a picture so your child can include it on their class poppy wreath.

Our ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. Students involved in cadets or scouting are invited to wear their uniforms.

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK

The province of Ontario has designated November 5-11, 2023 as Treaties Recognition Week to promote education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships. DSBN joins with other school boards across Ontario in encouraging schools to support learning about treaties as an important aspect of our province's history. I encourage our families to take a few minutes to view the video "[Voices from Here](#)" with Rick Hill. For more information on treaties, go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>.

SPIRIT WEAR

Please see the online store that is now open for school spirit wear at Front Row Sports.

https://stores.inksoft.com/ontario_knights_school/shop/home

The store is open until Dec 3 to guarantee the items in time for the holiday break.

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.dsbnschools.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, DSBNS social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

ANAPHYLAXIS – BE NUT AWARE!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction to certain food substances. We have students in our school who 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.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

School Cash Online is a safe, reliable portal that will ensure the security of your information. The system is already active. You can ontario.dsbnschools.org gain access through the School Cash button which has been placed on our school website. We are asking that you click on the button and follow the simple instructions to register. Registration should take less than five minutes. If you registered last year, you do not need to register again!

If you require some assistance registering for School Cash Online, please visit the office and we will be happy to help you get started.

THE NOSE KNOWS: NO SCENTS MAKES SENSE

Scented products have chemicals that can cause health reactions in people with asthma, migraines, allergies, or environmental sensitivities. Please help keep our air breathable for everyone and use unscented or scent-reduced products where possible. Ontario is a Scent-Reduced Environment. Some staff and students have a sensitivity to odours, smells, and scents. Please do not wear, or send your child with, perfume, cologne, aftershave, or scented body lotion into the school.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our second School Advisory Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28 via Teams. Anyone is welcome to join us at 7pm. If you did not join in September, please send me an email to get the link.

DSBN SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Do you have questions about your child's mental health and well-being, such as anxiety, behaviour or self-harm?

Do you need support in accessing supports in the community?

Do you need advice for setting goals to help with regular school attendance?

Do you have any questions or looking for support regarding a certain aspect of parenting?

If these are some questions that you have, please speak with your child's teacher or Mrs. Falardeau or Ms. Plat. All DSBN schools work with a DSBN Social Worker who supports families to provide an additional layer of support to help our students and families achieve success. Our DSBN Social Workers are an invaluable member of our Woodland team.

NOVEMBER SPIRIT DAYS

Ontario 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
Tuesday, November 14	Diabetes Awareness Day	Tuesday, November 14 is Diabetes Awareness Day. We would like to encourage all of our Wolves to wear blue to support this awareness campaign.

SPECIAL LUNCH OPTIONS

We have planned two special lunch options this month in addition to our pizza days. We also have a variety of dietary needs that need to be considered. In order to ensure all dietary needs are accommodated and planned for, we order meals that are packaged individually for each student. All orders will be available through School Cash Online and late orders cannot be accepted. Orders close at 9:00 am on the due date.

Lunch Date	Lunch Option	Order Window through School Cash Online
Thursday, November 2,9,16,23,30	<u>Little Caesar's Pizza</u>	Closes midnight on the Sunday before the pizza day
Tuesday, November 14, 2023	<u>Jamaican Patty Day</u>	Closes Sunday, November 5 th at midnight
Tuesday, November 28, 2023	<u>Pita Pit</u>	Closes Sunday, November 19 th at midnight

EXTRA-CURRICULARS UPDATES

We are looking forward to offering a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for our Knights during the 2023-2024 school year. Here is what is currently being offered!

Activity	Day of the Cycle and Meeting Time	Grades for Student Involvement	Teacher Supervisor
Intermediate Co-Ed Volleyball	Games on Tuesdays/Thursdays	Grades 7 - 8	Mrs. Garrett/Mr. Gill

SHIRT DAYS – BULLYING AWARENESS

The DSBN Pink Shirt (Every) Day Kick-Off Campaign is taking place November 19 to 24, 2023 during Ontario's Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Any day is an appropriate day to have a Pink Shirt Day throughout the school year, but we will be acknowledging Wednesday, February 28, 2024 as Wear Anything Pink Day to celebrate a positive school climate.

DSBN eFLYERS

Many community events and activities are posted on the DSBN eFlyers website. I encourage you to take a look, on occasion, to ensure you do not miss any community events that might be of interest to you or your family. To view the eFlyers, please follow the simple instructions:

1. Log onto our website: www.dsbn.org
2. Click on "Community" tab
3. Click on "eFlyer Request" and you may browse through the 'Recent eFlyers' to find offerings from a variety of community organizations.

STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED

In our busy lives, events can sometimes be overlooked. Technology allows us multiple ways to connect with families. The following is a list of ways we use to connect with families to ensure all families are aware of the many events happening throughout the year.

SCHOOL WEBSITE - ontario.dsbn.org

Please take some time to visit the Ontario Public School website. Our website includes current newsletters, school calendars, code of conduct, school council information, a school year calendar, classroom websites, and bell times. Our website also includes the most recent Tweets.

SCHOOL MESSENGER - Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive an email on Sunday afternoon (Monday's on a long weekend) with reminders about events for the upcoming week. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Please follow us on social media to see updates on exciting events. All posts and tweets will be updated on our school website as well. [Ontario "X"](#)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - All newsletters will be posted to the school website and sent via School Messenger through email on the first school day of the new month.