

**Ontario Public School**  
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May 2023

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

As we enter the home stretch of the school year, many significant events will appear on your calendars, including track and field meets and graduation. When schedules get busy, it becomes even more important for students to remain focused and stay the course with their learning goals. Now is a good time for students to review their goals and finish the year strong.

It is also important to keep a close eye on calendars as they get very busy at this time of year. Please remember to look at the school website for updates and events. Helping your child plan ahead and keep on top of all the events will help your child remain calm and organized. We are looking forward to a lot of fun and learning during the next two months of school.

**PLANNING FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

In order to assist us with making the best decisions possible with respect to class organization and student placements for Ontario Public School for the 2023/2024 school year, we would appreciate it if you would let the office know if your family is planning to move in the next few months. Providing us with this information in the spring will also facilitate transportation arrangements.

We continue to grow in numbers and are getting new registrations daily. Due to increased enrollment, we will have additional staff, including a Vice Principal. This summer, we will be adding 4 new portables and 3 additional homeroom classes. The board is supporting the purchase of furniture that is required to set up these classrooms.

As the school continues to grow, one challenge will be the parking lot and Kiss & Ride. A large majority of our students are eligible to ride the bus. The horseshoe on the left side of the parking lot is the bus zone and students are not to be dropped off there. Please consider having your child ride the bus if eligible to eliminate the congestion of cars.

**ONTARIO SCHOOL CALENDAR AND DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Ontario Public School calendar is available on the school website. [Click here](#) for more information about the DSBN Days of Significance calendar.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Prom Project Niagara ..... May 6
- Grades 7&8 Brock University ..... May 8
- Grades 4-8 Track Day ..... May 10
- Track Day-Raindate ..... May 11
- Firehouse Sub Lunch ..... May 10
- Support Staff Day ..... May 16
- Rankin Run ..... May 18
- PD DAY ..... May 19
- Victoria Day Holiday ..... May 22
- Pizza Lunch ..... May 26
- Spirit Day-Beach/Sunglasses ..... May 26

**SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES**

The school will be closed for a PD Day on Friday, May 19 and Victoria Day on Monday, May 22. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Victoria Day long weekend!



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS – WHY IT MATTERS IN THE EARLY YEARS!

With the warmer spring weather finally here and the later sunset, students are outside and perhaps staying up a bit later as well. This can make it difficult to get up for school in the morning. It is still very important that your child be at school and on time each day. There are still many days of learning left in the school year!

Remember these important tips:

- Help your child get into the habit and learn the value of regular routines.
- Teach your child that attending school is nonnegotiable unless they are truly sick.
- Build relationships with other families and discuss how you can help each other out (e.g., drop off or pick up children, babysit, translation assistance) in times of need or emergencies.
- Identify non-academic activities (drama, art, music, etc.) that can help motivate your child's interest in school and learning and seek out the opportunities.

If you require some assistance improving your child's attendance, please contact your child's teacher or the school office. This information is used with the permission of Attendance Works.

## DSBN SUPPORT STAFF DAY

Please mark your calendars for May 16<sup>th</sup> as it is DSBN Support Staff Day. I would like to thank our amazing support staff team for all they do to ensure our students have a safe and caring school. Thank you to Ms. Swartz, Mrs. Stupp, Mr. Bousfield, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Elliott, Miss DeRuiter, Ms. Maddalena, Ms. Gullion, Ms. Walma, Ms. Barker, Miss Vanderbent, Ms. Christou, Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. Hiebert.

## EQAO – PRIMARY AND JUNIOR ASSESSMENT

Students in Grades 3 and 6 will begin writing the provincial EQAO assessments on May 16<sup>th</sup> and will write a portion of the assessment each day until June 7<sup>th</sup>. It is essential that students attend school during testing and arrive on time at the beginning of the day so that they are able to participate fully in the testing. We encourage our students to try their best on the tests and to put great effort into showing what they know! Ask your child's teacher for specific dates if needed.

## TRACK AND FIELD–JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE

We will be holding our school meet on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. All track and field events are open to students in Grade 4 to Grade 8. Please make sure that your child arrives on time and has proper footwear, sunscreen and water. Lunch time will remain at 1:05 pm. Parents are welcome to come cheer on our Knights. Students that qualify will move on to the regional meet that will be held on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at Welland Centennial Secondary School. The DSBN meet (for those that qualify) will be held on June 14 at Welland Centennial Secondary School.

New this year high jump and shot put will not be part of the Track & Field day at the school. Mrs. Bishop will be running a club for those students who are interested in participating. Students will be given more information at school.

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL & FUNDRAISERS

During April's School Advisory Council, we discussed the growth of the school, extracurriculars, school trips and fundraising. We will be running a couple fundraisers before the end of the school year. This information will be sent via School Messenger. Next meeting is June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. All are welcome.

## RANKIN RUN

We will be holding our school Rankin Run on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Information and pledge forms have been shared with your child. Students will complete a -5km walk/run around the perimeter of the school grounds. All of us have been touched by cancer in one way or another, so this is an event where we can make a difference for those fighting this horrible disease.

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

During the month of April, 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. April's character trait was Integrity. The following students were recognized.

K1-DWYER	Lucas B, Kamren S.	GR 3	Muhammed U., Evan C.
K2-PHILLIPS	Dwij P, Westin M.	GR 4	Lakshya C., Landon R., Thaedon M.
K3-LARANTZIS	Kyrie S.	GR 5	Shayla W., Evan T., Noah B.
GR 1-T	Ranveer M., Novah W., Connor H.	GR 5/6	Sarah G., Emma H-O, Emma S., Cheyenne D.
GR 1-G	Levie H., Inara K., Erin M., Raeah D-S	GR 6/7	Alexus G., Dominic L., Jayah B., Ben G
GR 1/2	Qasim A., Olivia B.	GR 7	Jenna L., Gretchyn M., Haylee J.
GR 2	Walker W., Raelyn N.	GR 8	Summer W., Egan M., Carson L.
GR 2/3	Anika W., Maryn B.		

## SCHOOL PROPERTY, THE PLAYGROUND AND THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Now that the warm weather has arrived, we seek your cooperation in reducing school vandalism. If you notice any vandalism or damages to DSBN schools or properties and are looking to report it, please call Password Protection Services. The phone number is 1-800-561-3099. Once notified, they will then contact the appropriate personnel at DSBN and the issues will be dealt with in a timely manner. Thank you for your support in keeping our school and community safe and for your help in keeping our building safe for when our students return!

## SPECIAL LUNCH OPTIONS/SNACK SHACK/ FREEZIE FRIDAYS

We are trying to plan more special lunch options for our students during the months of May & June. We are trying out some new options to see if it's something we will consider for next year on a regular basis. Our Freezie Fridays have proven to be popular and we will continue sales on Fridays during the month of May. As well, we will be running a Snack Shack this month outside Mrs. Cunningham's room on Tuesday & Thursday during second break.

Date	
Wednesday, May 10, 2023	<b><u>FIREHOUSE SUB DAY</u></b>
Friday, May 26, 2023	<b><u>LITTLE CAESARS Pizza</u></b> Cheese Slices  <b><u>Please order on School Cash online</u></b>
Friday May 5, 12, 26	<b><u>Freezie sales-\$1 each</u></b>
Tuesdays/Thursdays	<b><u>Snack Shack-\$1 bags of chips and \$2 Powerade</u></b>

## EXTRA-CURRICULARS UPDATES

We are looking forward to offering a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for our Knights during the 2022-2023 school year. Here is what is currently being offered! Please note that if NSTS transportation is cancelled, any after school extra-curriculars will also be cancelled.

Activity	Day of the Cycle and Meeting Time	Grades for Student Involvement	Teacher Supervisor
Track and Field	Ontario Track Meet – May 11 Group Meet* – June 6 DSBN Meet* – June 14 (Welland Centennial)	Grades 4-8 *students must qualify to attend	Mrs. Garrett Mrs. Falardeau
Coding Club	Grade 2's Tues/Thurs-second break Grade 3's Mon/Wed-second break Grade 3-after school on Wednesdays until 4:35pm	Grade 2-3	Ms. Cunningham
EcO Club	Weekly-Second break-Day varies		Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Gaudreault, Miss Lirantzis

## CELEBRATING OUR KNIGHTS-CONGRATULATIONS.....

- to Tessa in grade 7 who was honoured at the April board meeting as one of the winners of the Director's Artisan Art Card Contest
- the Junior basketball teams on their successful seasons
- our Robotics team who proudly represented the school with success

## 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. Worth. 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.

## PROM PROJECT NIAGARA

Grade 8 Graduation is coming! We encourage students to come in clothes they feel comfortable wearing to celebrate their milestone achievement. Prom Project Niagara is a one-day, fun, free formal wear extravaganza for all students! Students can select their perfect head-to-toe look for their prom, formal, or **graduation** for FREE!

If you know of a student who could use this program, please join us on Saturday, May 6, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at St. Catharines Collegiate. [Click here for more details!](#)

## 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.dsbns.org](http://www.dsbns.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.

## NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH MAY NEWSLETTER

Please [click this link to read the May updates](#) from Niagara Region Public Health.

### 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. Woodland 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, after shave, or scented body lotion into the school.

We have had some students spraying perfumes, body sprays and other scented products in the halls. We kindly ask that you review the Scent-Reduced Environment message with your child.

### 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.

### 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

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 social media posts.

**SCHOOL MESSENGER** - Using the School Messenger program, information will be shared as needed to the whole school. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information.

**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.