

Ontario Public School

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January 2024



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! We hope that your holiday season was restful and refreshing. Have you made any New Year's resolutions? A new year provides us with a wonderful opportunity to create resolutions or promises to make positive changes in our lives like eating better, going to bed earlier, or exercising more regularly.

This is also a chance to talk to your children about ways that they can work toward academic goals. Why not make a New Year school resolution? Try brainstorming good work/study habits, ideas for organization, or ways to overcome pitfalls encountered in the early part of the term. With report cards coming out in February, there can be tangible proof just around the corner that hard work and focused effort make a difference!

On behalf of our entire staff, best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024!

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As cooler weather has arrived, please be aware that children are expected to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions every day. Coats, hats, boots and mittens/gloves will be necessary for your child to enjoy the outdoor fitness breaks. 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

- Welcome Back! Jan. 8
- French Immersion Registration Begins Jan. 8
- Gr 6/7 & 7 Trip Jan. 10
- Pizza Lunch Jan. 11
- DSBN Roadshow Jan. 16
- Pizza Lunch Jan. 18
- PA Day Jan. 19
- Firehouse Sub Day Jan. 23
- Pizza Lunch Jan. 25
- Gr 1 Trip Jan. 25
- Family Literacy Day Jan. 27

PA DAY

On Friday, January 19 all DSBN schools will be closed for a PA Day in which teachers will be engaged in assessment and evaluation activities.



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 as marked. Please do not enter through the exit or drive through the bus lane.
3. Please be patient. Please wait until the car in front has moved before proceeding rather than trying to go around a car.
4. 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.

DECEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Teacher	Student #1	Student #2
Phillips/Elliott	Avery- Awesome Attitude	Carter- Excellent Effort Alex- Excellent Effort
Norton	Emerson-Awesome Attitude	Murphy-Incredible Innovator
Simpson/DeRuiter	Akil	Rewa
DaEira/Maddalena	Tallulah- Helping Hand	Kiyana-Good Friend
Thaler	Zander-Helping Hand	Theo-Curious Questioner
Gyugyei/Gill	Santiago-enthusiasm	Briggs-kindness
Gaudreault	Vasilisa - Excellent Effort	Yazie - Excellent Effort
Sokach	Bryden	MohammedAli
Salierno	Maya - Extra Mile	Aadya - Creativity
Teakle	Miah- Sunshine Award Danneika-Sunshine Award	Austin- Reading rockstar
Cunningham	Andy-King of Kindness	Olivia-Queen of Kindness
Glauser	Farida - Excellent Effort	Easton - Excellent Effort
Kaur	Ahmed- High Five Award	Killian- Extraordinary Creativity
Blackburn	Landon Kadence	Henry
Garrett	Mysha Kyla	Paige
Smith	Salma-Being resilient	Raiin-Being a good friend
Bishop	Elika -above and beyond with our door display Shania-above and beyond with our door display	Pranisha - enthusiasm and leadership - cultural displays
Kraus	Esi	Hejran
Anderson	8 - Nathan, Ethan, Issac, Abraham 6 - Jasleen, Emma S., Rileigh, Cheyenne	4 - Anna, Arianna 5 - Zac, Ebo, Farzan, Jahmir

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative. ABC creates free learning and promotional resources for anyone who wants to get involved. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

On January 27, we encourage your families to celebrate this day by having a family party. [Click here are ideas from ABC Literacy on learn about your family. with your family.](#)

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know a child who was born in 2020? If so, spread the word that Kindergarten registration is almost here! Please visit the [DSBN Kindergarten registration link](#) for more details and save Thursday, February 1, 2024, between 10:00 – 6:00 pm for our Kindergarten Open House event!

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, 2024, until Tuesday, February 20, 2024. 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](#).

DSBN ACADEMY: OPEN HOUSE COMING SOON

Learn about the DSBN Academy at the Open House on **Tuesday, February 6, 2024 from 6:00- 8:00 pm!** Join us to find out:

- How this unique program prepares students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- What extra opportunities are offered and how your child can benefit
- If the DSBN Academy is a good fit for your child

The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6-12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.

Online registration opens the week of January 8th at ACADEMY.DSBN.ORG/APPLY. Registration will close on **FEBRUARY 26, 2024**. Limited spots available. More information will be available shortly.

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.

If you need a winter coat, snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, or mitts, please contact the school office by phone or email Becki.Falardeau@dsbn.org 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 except when an extreme cold weather alert is issued by the Niagara Region. For this reason, students must come prepared for the weather! We appreciate your efforts!

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.dsb.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.

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.

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.

School Cash Online is a safe, reliable portal that will ensure the security of your information. The system is already active. You are able to 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.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thank you to all the families who were able to support the Ontario School Advisory Council's Big Red Meat Fundraiser . We raised a total of \$3500 towards more school Chromebooks. We are closing in on our technology goal.

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 Basketball	Games are Tuesdays and/or Thursdays – please see schedule sent home prior to Winter Break	Grades 7 - 8	Mrs. Bishop/Mr. Smith
Comic Club	Meet Wednesdays at first break	Grades 3 - 8	Ms. Harris
Chess Club			Mr. Casburn

SPECIAL LUNCH OPTIONS

Lunch Date	Lunch Option	Order Window through School Cash Online
Thursday, January 12, 19, 26, 2024	<u>Pizza</u>	Closes the prior Sunday at 12:00 pm
Tuesday, January 23, 2024	<u>Firehouse Subs</u>	Close Sunday January 14

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.

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.dsbnschools.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

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 evening (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.

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.