

Ontario Public School

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April 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am excited to be joining this wonderful school community at Ontario Public School. The warm welcome that I received last week was terrific and very much appreciated. I have been an educator with the District School Board of Niagara for over 25 years and look forward to keeping the positive momentum going Mr. Butler has created here at the school. It did not take long to see that all the amazing things he'd told me about the school were absolutely true. I am looking forward to meeting more parents and am working hard to get to know all the awesome students.

Mrs. B. Falardeau

Becki.falardeau@dsbn.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Autism Acceptance Day Apr. 2
- Book Fair Apr. 3-6
- School Advisory Council Apr. 4
- Good Friday Holiday Apr. 7
- Easter Monday Holiday Apr. 10
- Grade 8 trip- Fonthill Meridian Centre for Celebration de francophonie Apr. 13
- Gr ½ & Gr 2 Trip to DSBN Adventure Campus Apr. 25
- Gr 1-1 & Gr 1-2 Trip to DSBN Adventure Campus Apr. 27
- Super Hero Day..... Apr. 28
- Pizza Lunch..... Apr. 28

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 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 for September. We thank you in advance for keeping us informed! School and classroom organization begins at the end of April so sharing this information with us now is very helpful for our planning for next year!

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.

BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic book fair will be taking place in the library this week. A percentage of our purchases will come back to our school in the form of fair rewards to buy books for our library. Last year we were able to purchase over \$3000 worth of books. This year is a hybrid fair, with sales both online and in person. Online purchases will be shipped in Ontario free of charge. Book buying evening is Wednesday, April 5th from 3:30pm-6:30pm for the school community.

HOLIDAY DATES

Easter Break is from April 7 to April 10 inclusive. We wish our Knights a happy and healthy Easter break.

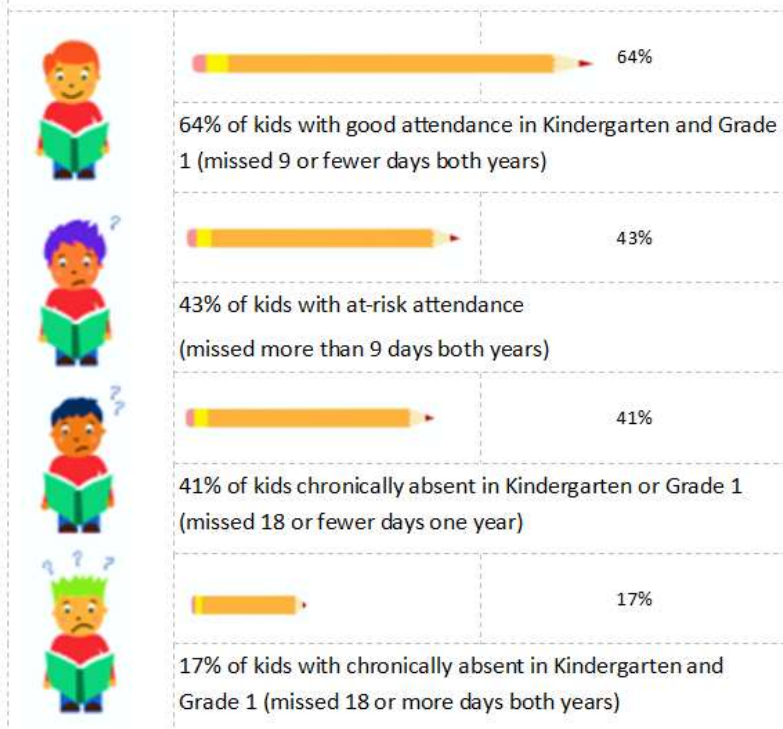


KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR – IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Did you, or someone you know miss our open house and have a child who was born in 2019? If so, connect with the school and we can make arrangements for a visit. There is still time to register by visiting the [DSBN Kindergarten registration link](#). If you have any questions, please contact the office.



Who can read on Grade Level after Grade 3?



ATTENDANCE MATTERS – WHY IT MATTERS IN THE EARLY YEARS!

My child is in Kindergarten or Grade 1. Does their regular attendance really matter?
 “If children don’t show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers. Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.” (attendanceworks.org.)

- What can you do?**
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
 - Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night’s sleep.
 - Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
 - Don’t let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

How many days is considered chronically absent?
 A student that misses 18 days during the entire school year is considered chronically absent.

- Did you know?**
- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
 - Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
 - By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
 - By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
 - Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student’s academic success.
 - Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.

- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

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

LOCKDOWN DRILL

All schools within the DSBN practice lockdown procedures as part of the school's emergency preparedness. The simulation will give students and staff an opportunity to implement our School and Board Emergency Response Plan to ensure the safety of all students and staff, should an emergency lockdown situation occur.

This is to inform you that Ontario Public School will be involved in a practice lockdown procedure on April 26, 2023. Similar to fire evacuation drills, classroom teachers will review the steps that students must follow during a lockdown. As always, staff will make sure students are prepared and feel safe during the practice. The practice lockdown is expected to take approximately ten minutes. If you require any additional information, please contact me at the school.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

During the month of March, 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. March's character trait was "Cooperation". The following students were recognized:

K1-Dwyer	Tahzeeb F, Alivia W	Gr 3	Tyler F, Killian H, Owen W
K2-Phillips	Aarya R, Yazie T	Gr 4	Mason P, Sophia N, Addy F
K3-Larantzis	Maryam I, Charlie N, Everly L	Gr 5	Hank P, Dreydon G, Shayne M
Gr 1-T	Levi O, Zayn SJ	Gr 5/6	Hejran J, Puneet S, Luke A
Gr1-G	Rosie D, Ember M, Brett L	Gr 6/7	Issac H, Abraham H, DJ V
Gr 1/2	Zoey W, Aadya P	Gr 7	Audrey B, Ryan R, Niles S
Gr 2	Aleeza U, Raelyn N, Andy C	Gr 8	Jak B, Valeria R
Gr 2/3	Austin T, Mariam H		

PIZZA LUNCH-APRIL 28

All orders will be available through School Cash Online on Tuesday April 4 until Tuesday April 25. Late orders cannot be accepted. Orders close at 11:00 pm on the due date.

Lunch Date	Lunch Option	Order Window through School Cash Online
Friday, April 28, 2023	<u>Little Caesars Pizza</u> <u>Cheese Pizzas</u>	Open now and closes Tuesday, April 25 at 11:00 pm

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
Junior Basketball	Both a boys and girls Junior (Grades 4-6) basketball team continue to work hard and see success. The games are Tuesdays and Thursdays until April 11 with the Championship game scheduled for April 18.	Grades 4-6	Mrs. Bishop-Boys Mr. Smith-Girls
Intermediate Badminton	Tournament April 25, 2023	Grades 7-8	Mrs. Blackburn

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023

Our School Advisory Council meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. All School Advisory Council meetings are open to new members. Please email Mrs. Falardeau for the link to join. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 7:00 pm via a Teams meeting.

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. 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 invaluable members of our Ontario 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 girls and guys! 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. – 1:30 p.m. at one of our locations. More information will be shared shortly!

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.dsbno.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.

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

We have had some students that have been 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 - <https://ontario.dsb.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 social media posts.

SCHOOL MESSENGER - Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive an email with any news that needs to be shared school wide.

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.