

Ontario Public School

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January 2023

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 early February, there can be tangible proof just around the corner that hard work and focused effort really makes a difference!

On behalf of our entire staff, best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023!

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As cooler weather approaches, please be aware that children are expected to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions every day. 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 will continue to have gym classes outside during this time. Students that 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 DSVN Days of

significance calendar on the first of each month. [Click here](#) for more information about the DSVN Days of Significance calendar.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Welcome Back!Jan. 9
- French Immersion Registration For Grade One Begins.....Jan. 9
- DSVN Academy Road ShowJan. 17
- PA Day.....Jan. 20
- Family Literacy DayJan. 27
- Ontario Spirit Day.....Jan. 27
- Kindergarten Open House.....Feb. 2

PA DAY

On Friday, January 20 all DSVN 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. 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.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

During the month of December, 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:

December's Student of the Month: Caring

K1 - Kraus	Savaya D, Charlotte R, Kamren S	Gr. 3	Muhammed U, Dawson VDM
K2- Phillips	Cleo W, Shrivishnu R, Avya P	Gr. 4	Saleh M, Jaxon H
K3- Lirantzis	Darryl K, Carson B, Baani D	Gr. 5	Lucy S, Samarjeet R, Abdullah P
Gr. 1 -T	Brayden B, Claire Z	Gr. 5/6	Binisha G, Connor S, Maira S
Gr. 1 - G	Chantal M, Evan B	Gr. 6/7	Rana A, Adalyn B, Harper B
Gr. 1/2	Autumn B, Ziah W	Gr. 7	Tessa L, Chloe M, Rianna Z
Gr. 2	Raina F, Walker W	Gr. 8	Brooklyn M, Garrett S
Gr. 2/3	Huntley H, Vera T		

MRS. KRAUS IS RETIRING

Mrs. Kraus is retiring. Tuesday, January 31, 2023, will be her last day at Ontario Public School. She has taught for thirty years and I know she has loved her career as a teacher. Mrs. Kraus is working a month past her retirement date of December 31st, so she could finish off her Term 1, Kindergarten Report Cards. This shows the kind of conscientious and thoughtful educator that she is. We all know what a kind, caring and professional educator Mrs. Kraus is. The staff and students at Ontario PS would like to wish Janet all the success and happiness in her retirement. Congratulations Mrs. Kraus, we will miss you!!!

FAMILY LITERACY DAY: CELEBRATE YOUR HERITAGE

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 that 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 learning about your heritage. We are fortunate to live in a country that celebrates our diversity. Let's explore our heritage and learn about others as well! [Click here are ideas from ABC Literacy on learn about your family, with your family.](#)

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 almost here! Please visit the [DSBN Kindergarten registration link](#) for more details. **Save Thursday, February 2, 2023 between 10:00 – 6:00 pm for our Kindergarten Open House event!**

DSBN ACADEMY: VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE COMING SOON

Learn about the DSBN Academy at the Virtual Open House on **Tuesday, February 7, 2023 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 in January at ACADEMY.DSBN.ORG/APPLY. Registration will close on FEBRUARY 27, 2023. Limited spots available.



WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO DSBN ACADEMY?

- Student must live within the Niagara Region
- Student must be entering grade 6, 7, or 8 in September. (Note: spaces are limited in grades 7 and 8)
- Student would be the first in their family to graduate from a college or university. (If a sibling of the student has attended a post-secondary institution but the parent(s)/guardian(s) have not, the student is still considered a first-generation student.)
- Student must be willing to attend a school location, the DSBN Academy site, which may be outside of their community. Transportation will be provided for these students.
- Student understands there is a mandatory after-school program that enhances the student experience beyond the classroom. These include enrichment opportunities and academic supports. After-school ENCORE enrichment opportunities include: Mixed sports, Chess, Karate, Dance, Zumba, Coding, Mad Science, Board games, Photography, Makerspace, Choir, Canvas painting, Crochet, Crafts, Podcasting, Baking, Debating, Drama and many more!
- DSBN Academy Secondary programming is designed to prepare students for College and University.

If you have any questions, please contact: jennifer.moore@dsbn.org - Elementary Principal

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, boot, hats, gloves, or mitts, please contact the school office by phone or email (wol@dsbn.org) to inquire about the support we can provide in getting these much needed items for your children.

All students will continue to have gym classes outside, in the winter months, weather permitting. 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 in when an extreme cold weather alert is issued by the Niagara Region. For this reason, it is essential that students come prepared for the weather! We appreciate your efforts!

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](#). To register for the virtual open house, please click on the image to the left.

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.

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](https://www.dsbn.org), all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

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!

Activity	Day of the Cycle and Meeting Time	Grades for Student Involvement	Teacher Supervisor
Intermediate Boys Basketball		Grades 7 - 8	Mrs. Bishop
Intermediate Girls Basketball		Grades 7 - 8	Mr. Smith / Mr. Gill

JANUARY SPIRIT DAYS

Our Ontario School 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, January 27	Pajama Day	Don't forget to wear your favourite pajamas on Friday, January 27 for our Student of the month assembly.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Ontario Public School is excited to announce that we will be hosting our Kindergarten Open House on **Thursday, February 2, 2023** between 10:00 – 6:00 pm. Please join us if you have a child born in 2019. We look forward to meeting you.

Holiday Raffle Basket Winners	
Candy / chocolate	Yara Y
Board Games / Family Night #1	Raina F
Board Games / Family Night #2	Jacob Z
Baking #1	Tessa L
Baking #2	Everly L
Movie Night #1	Huntley H
Movie Night #2	Catherine W
Arts / Crafts #1	Suzy P
Arts / Crafts #1	Leanne B
Decorate Your Own Tree	Andy C
Lottery Basket	Chris St. J