

Ontario Public School

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March 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE -RETIREMENT NOTICE

After twenty-nine years in education with the District School Board of Niagara and Lincoln County Board of Education, I have made the decision to retire. My last day at Ontario Public School will be Friday March 31st.

I have loved my time as an educator in the role of teacher, LRT, Vice Principal and Principal. I was fortunate to be the principal of 5 amazing but very different elementary schools. I learned very quickly that a school is defined by the people in the building and not its physical structure. People (teachers, DECEs, EAs, secretaries and custodians) make schools thrive. I was lucky enough to work with so many excellent and effective educators that worked very hard for the students in their classrooms. This school is filled with those awesome educators.

What has made this decision very, very difficult are the 30 fabulous staff members and 360 amazing students here at Ontario School. I love the team of educators that we have assembled here. We are having a great year with so many kind and respectful students who are excelling academically. I am hoping that the new administrator will see what an awesome thing we have going here and keep this positive momentum going for the last 3.5 months of the school year. No administrator has been named yet but as soon as I know who it will be I will email that information to you.

Thank you for making Ontario PS the best place I have ever worked. It is an amazing place to learn, teach and work. This school is so awesome is so many ways. Keep this awesomeness going.

With March Break approaching, we wish your families a safe and healthy break and look forward to another awesome 3.5 months once your children return refreshed and ready for the remainder of the school year!

Brad Butler

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Grade 8 Grad Photos.....Mar. 6
- March Break Begins.....Mar. 13
- March Break End.....Mar. 17
- Dental ScreeningMar. 23
- Dental ScreeningMar. 24
- Kindergarten Trip.....Mar. 31
- St. Patrick's / Green Day.....Mar. 31

PA DAY

March Break is from March 13 to March 17 inclusive. We look forward to seeing our families on March 20 after a restful and healthy break.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

We were excited to host our Kindergarten Open House on Thursday, February 2. 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.



DENTAL SCREENING – THURSDAY, MARCH 23 AND FRIDAY MARCH 24

We are excited to have the NRPH Department to bring the Dental Screening Clinic to Ontario Public School. This clinic is offered to all students JK to Grade 8 as required under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. The clinic will take place on Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24 at Ontario Public School. A registered dental hygienist will take a quick look in the child's mouth using a sterilized mirror and light. Staff will be wearing a mask, eye protection, gloves and performing hand hygiene between each student. Students will be asked to remove their masks for 20 - 30 seconds and will be distanced from other students.

Parents/guardians will be contacted if their child requires immediate dental care. The Healthy Smiles Ontario program may financially assist children who do not have access to dental care. **Please contact the Dental Program if you DO NOT want your child(ren) to take part in the dental screening.** For more information or to opt-out your child(ren), complete the online [School Dental Screening Nonparticipation Form](#) or call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS – OLDER STUDENTS

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.

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.

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.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY

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

February's Student of the Month: Courage

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| K1 - Dwyer | Cassie H, Ta'Zaria R, Chloe D-F | Gr. 3 | Love Son K, Syanna L, Raina M |
| K2- Phillips | Hannah R, Raiyaan U, Gurnav S | Gr. 4 | Denise T, Hanish B, Farzan J |
| K3- Lirantzis | Aarti S, Esa H, Claire M | Gr. 5 | Logan T-T, Cali S, Boston J, |
| Gr. 1 -T | Nathan N, Claire Z, Catherine W | Gr. 5/6 | Jasleen P, Alexander G, Eknor M |
| Gr. 1 - G | Didar P, MuhammadAli B | Gr. 6/7 | Eloise K, Shubhani S, Tamara P |
| Gr. 1/2 | Danneika S, Amelia H | Gr. 7 | Willow W, Eli T, Kurtis F |
| Gr. 2 | Camryn P, Aleeza U, Isabella F | Gr. 8 | Bibi M, Alex V-F |
| Gr. 2/3 | Matias R, Firoz G, Mikita B | | |

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

Our fourth School Advisory Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. All School Advisory Council meetings are open to new members. If you would like to be a part of the School Advisory Council, please email Mr. Butler. 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. 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 Ontario team.

GRADE 8 GRAD PHOTOS – MONDAY, MARCH 6

Grade 8 Graduation photos are tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 6 in the morning. All students are encouraged to wear a white, button-down shirt and a tie for the boys.

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.dsbno.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, DSBNO 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 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.

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](https://www.dsbno.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 Facebook posts and 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.

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.