

Ontario Public School

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September 2022

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WELCOME TO THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR! On behalf of the staff at Ontario Public School, I would like to welcome back all our returning students and families. For our students and families new to Ontario PS, we are excited that you will be joining our 'Ontario Family' this year. A new year is always filled with possibilities. We know that this year will be full of new learnings, new experiences, new opportunities, and new friendships. There is a great deal of information in this newsletter and I appreciate the time you are giving to reading all this information!

I encourage our families to visit the '[DSBN Welcome Back to school – Elementary Students](#)' webpage. You will find resources and answers to some questions you may have as you prepare for your child's first month of school, including:

- a link to "[Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions](#)"
- a link to information on [Covid safety in schools](#)
- information about transportation
- a link to [Frequently Asked Questions and a 'Contact Us' page](#)

The first few weeks of school brings life back to the building, such as seeing smiling students eager to share their summer tales and hearing excitement in the air as students settle into their new classrooms. Thank you to Mrs. Stup for the excellent job she has done this summer getting the school ready to greet our students.

Our amazing Ontario team of educators and support staff are here to keep our school safe as we begin our 2022-2023 'Learning Journey'! Go Knights Go!

PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy or others) we want to make sure we have a current

Plan of Care to support your child. All parents of children with prevalent medical conditions are asked to fill out the new Plan of Care and submit to the school.

You can download the forms here [dsbn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions](https://ontario.dsvn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions). For more information, please contact the school.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Toonies for Terry Fox starts..... Sept. 19
 School Council MeetingSept. 27
 Rowan's Law Day-Wear purple..Sept. 28
 Meet the Teacher NightSept. 29
 Terry Fox walk (wear red or Ontario school gear).....Sept. 29
 Orange Shirt Day - National Day for Truth and ReconciliationSept. 30

ONTARIO SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Ontario Public School calendar is available on the school website.



**I Matter
 At DSNB**

BELL TIMES AND SUPERVISION

Ontario entry and dismissal times will be as shown. **Please note that morning supervision begins at 8:45 before school. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY.** We will be busy preparing for student arrivals. Our day ends at 3:25 pm.

MEET THE 2022-2023 ONTARIO STAFF

Mr. B. Butler, Principal
 Ms. T. Swartz, Administrative Assistant
 Mrs. C. Stup, Caretaker

Gr.1 – Mrs. Thaler	Gr.5 – Mrs. Blackburn	LRT – Mrs. Hansen
Gr.1 – Mrs. Gyugyei	Gr.5/6 – Mrs. Garrett	Prep – Mr. LeBrasseur
Gr.1/2– Ms. Salierno	Gr.6/7 – Mr. Smith	Prep – Mrs. Gaudrault
Gr.2 – Ms. Sokach	Gr.7 – Mrs. Bishop	EA – Mrs. Smith
Gr.2/3 – Ms. Teakle	Gr.8 – Mr. Kraus	EA – Ms. Johnson
Gr.3 – Ms. Cunningham	French - Mlle Anderson	YC- Tracy Hofland
Gr.4 – Mrs. Glauser	Library/Prep - Mr. Gill	SW – Ms. Vanderbent
Kindergarten #1 Mrs. Kraus, Mrs. Maddelena	Kindergarten #2 Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Elliot	Kindergarten #3 Miss Monaghan, Miss Deruiter
Lunch Supervisor Mrs. Walma	Lunch Supervisor Mrs. Dawson	Lunch Supervisor Ms. Vinnie

COVID-19 INFORMATION

For the 2022-23 school year, most health and safety requirements remain unchanged from the previous direction provided to school board partners at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

We encourage daily screening for students, staff and visitors. Students, staff and visitors should not attend school if they are sick. Please refer to the Province of Ontario's [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#). As well, schools have Rapid Antigen Test kits available for home use upon request.

We have Rapid Antigen Tests available at the office. If you would like some tests for your family, please contact the office through email or with a phone call. If you are emailing, please indicate if you would like to pick up the tests or have your child bring them home.

For additional information on Covid safety in schools, click [here](#).

STUDENT SAFETY – ENTRY AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Your child's safety is very important to the staff of Ontario Public School.

The Ministry of Education has a "Safe Welcome Program" as a part of the comprehensive Safe School Action Plan. To comply with the Ministry's program, and most importantly to ensure student safety, all parents and visitors are asked to PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE. All visitors and guests of Ontario Public School, including parents, are asked to only access the school through the front door, check in at the office, and sign in using the "Visitor Sign In" book located in the main office. Please be aware that all exterior doors will be locked at all times. Our students have been reminded that they are not to open the door for anyone, as access into the school will only occur through the front main entrance door. Our visitors will be required to ring the bell for the lock to be released by the staff, and then proceed to the office. We strive to maintain our school as a safe and secure learning environment for our students. All students will be expected to enter and exit through their assigned doors during regular entry and dismissal times. Students arriving late or leaving early must report to the office.

We are asking that parents of all students (Kindergarten and older students) please allow your child to enter the school with their classmates and to develop the independence and routine of the settling into their classrooms. This is also to ensure the safety of our students as any visitors in the hallways are to sign in at the office prior to going down to classrooms.

If you are dropping off an item for your child or picking them up for an appointment, you may simply check in at the office as per usual and allow one of our staff members to take care of your request.

Parents who are meeting their child at the end of the school day are asked to wait outside of the building by the basketball courts to ensure the smooth and safe dismissal of ALL the children. Should your child need to be picked up sometime during the school day for appointments, please come to the office and wait for your child to arrive at the office. Students should make all arrangements for after school activities before arriving at school in the morning. Please help us in promoting responsibility amongst our students. If you would like to speak to a teacher before or after school, please call in advance to make an appointment.

MORNING ARRIVAL

DO NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL TOO EARLY! Please arrive at 8:45 – 9:05 am. Parents will say goodbye at the school designated drop off area and staff will direct students to their class designated area.

For the safety and security of all students within our class communities:

- Supervision staff are on duty
- Students must be on time and follow all routines that support the well-being of the whole school.
- Parents are asked to say good-bye to their children at the school yard gates and allow them to enter the school yard to join their friends. Please no parents behind the school on the basketball courts or the soccer field.

GRADE 1-8 DISMISSAL

All students in Grades 1-8 will be escorted by their teacher for dismissal on the basketball courts. Bus students will be supervised and will be meeting at our bus loading zone. Staff will escort bus students to the loading zone and to the bus. Please note that our parking lot can get crowded during dismissal time. There is extra parking on Windle Village Cres. Please do not park in the Avondale parking lot. It is private property. If you do need to pick up your child, please exercise patience!

PLAYGROUND REMINDERS

To ensure students are safe on the playground equipment, there are a few important notes regarding the use of the equipment. Each grade will be assigned times in which the playground will be accessible to the students in that grade. This will ensure that the playground is not overcrowded and is safe for all students. Also, the playground structure is unavailable before school. We will not have the required supervision at this time. The playground is also not available after school as there is no supervision for students at the end of the school day. There will be plenty of opportunities for students to utilize the equipment during their fitness breaks and at other times throughout the day. When the weather turns colder, and the ground is frozen, the playground equipment will be off limits until the ground is softer again.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken twice daily. Please help us to ensure the safety of our students by reporting your child's absence or if they will be arriving late to school. Your co-operation in calling will assist our secretary immensely. If we do not hear from you, we will call you either at home, on your cell, your place of employment and your emergency contacts. Students who arrive late to school (morning or afternoon) must report to the office. In order to minimize classroom disruptions and to honour the learning in the classroom, parents will not be able to escort their child to their classroom. A staff member will meet the child at the front door and will ensure the child gets safely to their class.

How can I report my child's absence or late arrival? Whether it's an illness, a medical appointment or other important event, there are times when students may need to be away from school. Using the [Safe Arrival](#) system, parents will be able to report daily absences, and even schedule absences in one of three ways:

1. Call toll-free before bell time: 1-866-606-5567
2. Logging on to the web portal (<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/login>). Using this website, you can set up your account to report and schedule absences.
3. Using your smart phone or tablet. Simply download the SchoolMessenger app. The app is compatible with both Apple and Android devices.

Please report all absences prior to bell time for the current day. If your child has an upcoming appointment, you can also schedule future absences by using one of these three methods. Please do not contact the school directly to report your child's absence. For more information, please visit: <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/>

If you are changing your child's pick-up time, the office must know by 2:45 pm as it gets busy near the end of the day and some classes may be extending their learning outside at that time.

DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Niagara Region is growing more diverse in creed and/or religious beliefs and practices. The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to fostering diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environments that promote acceptance and protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Creed and/or religion is one of the grounds that is both an individual right and a collective responsibility. The DSBN recognizes and embraces the creed diversity represented in its students, staff, and community members.

As we start our school year, I invite you to share with me your family's most significant creed-based holiday(s). We will work together through the accommodation request process as Ontario Public School recognizes the importance of families celebrating their creed and/or religious beliefs and practices.

The DSBN has created a [Family Guide: Recognizing and Respecting Creed Diversity](#) to support families in requesting accommodations. This guide has also been translated into the following languages; Arabic, French, Hungarian, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese, which can be viewed on the [DSBN Equity webpage](#). For a list of Days of Significance, please refer to the [Days of Significance Calendar](#).

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL!

We understand that the partnership between home and school is vital to your child's success. We would love to have you join our Ontario School Advisory Council. Over the past year, our school council meetings have taken place virtually. We are excited to be able to meet on Tuesday, September 27. The first meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 will be via a TEAMS meeting. At this meeting we will decide if we want to meet in the future in person at the school. We are required to have a minimum of 4 meetings per school year but may schedule additional meetings depending on the needs of council. Meetings are usually held on a Tuesday evening. We would love to have as many parents participate as possible! Also, if you are interested in a position on the school council, please call the school and leave your name and email. We are looking forward to seeing you on the 27th.

NO LATEX AT SCHOOL

Scented products have latex that can cause health reactions in people with latex. Just a friendly reminder not to send any latex products like balloons to school or nut products. We have a staff member with a severe anaphylactic allergy to latex and students with severe nut allergies. Thank you for your co-operation.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. To respect your valuable time, we'd like to make it a little easier and less time consuming for you to connect with our school. With [School Cash Online](#), you will be able to approve permission forms and make payments for any of these items online. Understanding that we're quickly becoming a cashless society, we know it can sometimes be a challenge to find exact change for items and then send it to school through your child's backpack. Using [School Cash Online](#), you'll be able to use your debit, credit card or cheque to make quick and easy payments online. It will also allow you to track payments made and receive an invoice for your purchases. As we are trying to minimize papers travelling between school and home, we encourage all families to register for [School Cash Online](#). We will be using this platform to send out important beginning of the year information that you can approve with the click of a button!

[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 get you set-up and ready to go!

IMPORTANT FORMS TO SIGN

Most of our very important back to school forms were sent home on Monday, September 12. The back-to-school forms that are required to be returned include:

- ✓ Student Verification Information Form (please see below)
- ✓ Permission to Participate - DSBN Curricular (Physical Education) Athletic Program form
- ✓ an " Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement" which must be signed in order for students to use technology within the school

STUDENT VERIFICATION INFORMATION FORMS

During the first week of school, you will receive a computer printout of your child's information on file. Please check this and make any changes, fill in any missing information, and return it to the school promptly. In the interest of health and safety, it is important that students' medical and personal information is updated each year. Please let us know if any of the information changes during the school year to ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information.

WHAT IF I NEED TO GET SOMETHING TO MY CHILD?

If your child has forgotten something that they cannot do without, we kindly ask that you ring the bell at the front door and let our staff know who the item is for. In order to reduce learning disruptions, staff will take care of delivery for you. We will see that your child receives it.

OPEN HOUSE MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH 4:00 -5:00 PM

We are planning an Open House Meet the Teacher Event for the last week in September. Thursday, September 29th from 4:00 - 5:00 pm will be the Open House. This is an opportunity tour the school and meet your child's teacher. Please remember that this is an informal event. If you would like to discuss specific concerns, please schedule an appointment with the teacher to ensure your privacy and the teacher's undivided attention.

LEARNING COMMONS /LIBRARY

Did you know that our Ontario library offers eBooks for our students in addition to the titles we have in our learning commons? All students will be given the opportunity to take home a maximum of one library book at a time. Students will periodically receive a reminder notice of any late books. This year we will have to charge for lost books. The cost will be \$5.00 for soft cover books and \$10.00 for hardcover books to offset the cost of replacing the lost books.

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

Everyone has their own unique style and aesthetic. We celebrate students' individuality and respect their ability to express themselves. Our only expectation is that all students come to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment.

When deciding clothing, we ask that all members of our school community are mindful of:

- Health and safety concerns,
- The dignity and well-being of all students and staff (i.e. clothing that is free of inappropriate or discriminatory imagery or wording).

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.

STUDENT USE OF PHONE

In order to minimize touch surfaces and direct and indirect contact with others, including our office staff, students will not be permitted to use the phone unless it is an emergency. Any after school plans need to be arranged prior to the start of the school day.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONICS AT SCHOOL

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) has Policies (D-01: Digital Technology Use by Students and G26: Use of Mobile Devices by Students) that support the appropriate use of electronics in the classroom. To enhance the learning and empowerment of our students and maintain an effective and safe electronic learning environment, the DSBN requires that all students follow the rules for responsible use of technology as stated in the DSBN Digital Citizenship Agreement and Information Technology Consent.

In addition, if a student wishes to use their personal electronic devices, such as a phone, in the school setting, we ask that parents review the following expectations with your child:

- If the device is to be present in the classroom the purpose is solely educational and with teacher's direction and permission.
- The use of this device must not interfere with anyone's learning.
- To protect the privacy and safety of students and staff, personal electronics CANNOT be used to take photographs or videotape, unless under the direct supervision of a teacher for academic purposes.
- Students should not be using their personal phones to call or text without teacher knowledge. Contact with parents must always happen through the office to ensure student safety.
- Devices are never to be used in private areas such as change rooms and washrooms.
- When devices are not in use, they must be turned off and stored in a secure location (i.e., locker, backpack)

DSBN schools and staff will not be held responsible for damage, loss, or theft of personal electronic devices.

EXTRA-CURRICULARS UPDATES

We are looking forward to offering a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for our students during the 2022-2023 school year. Stay tuned for further details! Cross country running does start this week with practices at 8:15 am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

NEW SCHOOL TIMES

Supervision on the yard starts	8:45 am
School starts	9:05 am
First break	10:45 am to 11:25 am
Second break	1:05 pm to 1:45 am
Dismissal	3:25 pm

SEPTEMBER SPIRIT DAYS

The Ontario PS 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
Wednesday, September 28	Rowan's Law Day - Wear Purple	<p>Rowan's Law was named for Rowan Stringer, a high school rugby player from Ottawa, who died in the spring of 2013 from a condition known as second impact syndrome (swelling of the brain caused by a subsequent injury that occurred before a previous injury healed). Rowan is believed to have experienced three concussions over six days while playing rugby. She had a concussion but didn't know her brain needed time to heal. Neither did her parents, teachers, or coaches.</p> <p>Rowan's Law and Rowan's Law Day were established to honour her memory and bring awareness to concussions and concussion safety. We wear purple on this day as this was Rowan's favourite colour.</p>
Thursday, September 29	Terry Fox Day - Ontario Spirit Day	<p>We will honour Terry Fox and support cancer research through our annual Terry Fox walk which will take place on the school grounds. We challenge all students to wear their Ontario colours (red and/or white) on this day. We will be collecting "Toonies for Terry" starting on September 19th. If you would like to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation, please click here and you can donate on behalf of our Ontario School Knights.</p>
Friday, September 30	Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	<p>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, (Orange Shirt Day) is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Residential School survivor Phyllis Webstad's account of having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The initiative calls for every Canadian to wear an orange shirt in the spirit of healing and reconciliation. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes and placed in residential schools, and because it provides an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.</p> <p>On Friday, September 30, please join our school staff in wearing an orange shirt. We hope to see all of our students and many community members wearing orange on September 30.</p>

DSBN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



2022-2023 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

- First and Last Day of School
- Holiday / School Closed
- Professional Development Day

September 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		4-9	4-10	5-1	5-2	
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				6-10	7-1	
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			10-3	10-4	10-5	
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			12-1	12-2	12-3	
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	15-7	15-8	15-9	15-10	16-1	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				17-8	17-9	
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

RECOGNIZING DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The DSBN believes in building a culture of appreciation and inclusion, where students know they are valued, respected and celebrated. In addition to this school year calendar, there is also a calendar for [Days of Significance](#) that occur throughout the year.

This calendar highlights culturally-relevant events and tools to cultivate young minds to embrace their genius, appreciate our differences and disrupt oppression so we all can live harmoniously.

[Please visit www.dsbni.org/equity/days-of-significance-calendar](http://www.dsbni.org/equity/days-of-significance-calendar) to view this calendar and resources.