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mai/May 2022



Bonjour Dufferin Families;

We are rapidly entering the home stretch of our academic year, and things are becoming quite busy around the school, kicking things off with our Jump Rope for Heart Event.

From May 24-27, students in Grade 3 will participate in the EQAO provincial assessments, followed by Grade 6 from May 31-June 3. We ask that families make every effort possible to have children present at school on these dates. The assessment will take place during the first instructional block (8:50-10:30) and will continue into the second block (11:10-1:10). New this year, the assessments will be completed online. Students will have access to a tablet and will be supplied with earbuds during this time.

Happy Mother's Day to all moms and mom figures on May 8. Victoria Day is on Monday, May 23 and the school will be closed. We wish all of our families a restful and relaxing long weekend.

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith

Principal

dates to Remember

May 2-Jump Rope for Heart

May 2-6-Mental Health Week

May 5-Basketball Champions Ship Night (North Park)

May 6-Wylde Rose Soap Orders go home

May 11-Pizza Day

May 12-Immunizations for Gr. 7 and 8 (regular immunizations, not COVID-19), Gr. 5 Art Soup @BCI

May 17-Dental Screening (re-scheduled) for JK, SK and Gr. 2, CAGE Basketball (Simcoe Composite School)

May 18-Pita Pit Day

May 23-Victoria Day-School closed

May 24-27-Gr. 3 EQAO (Friday will be a catch up day for absent students)

May 25-27-Ball Hockey Tournaments

May 26-Gr. 8 day at BCI (pm)

May 30-Kindergarten and Gr. 1 (Norden) Tinker Truck Workshop

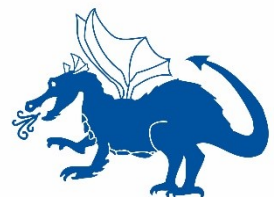
May 31-June 3-Gr. 6 EQAO (Friday will be a catch up day for absent students)

COVID-19 Daily Screening

Families are reminded that all Grand Erie students are required to conduct daily COVID-19 self assessments before arriving at school. You can access the online screening tool here:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

After completing the screening, follow the instructions on the screen. If the message says send your child to school, please do so. If the screening says do not go to school, you will need to keep your children home and follow the instructions on the screen. Thanks for your continued support in keeping our school environment safe and healthy as we continue to navigate the pandemic.



Transportation Delays/ Cancellations



Did you know that there are a number of ways to see if your child(ren)'s bus is running behind schedule or has been cancelled? The ways that you can be notified of an interruption include:

- 1) downloading the Bus Planner Delays app from either the Google Play or Apple store; detailed instructions on setting up the app are available by visiting [Bus Planner Delays](#)
- 2) The Chipmunk app, available from the App Store or Google Play store, can be used to track your child(ren)'s bus relative to their bus stop location. Visit [Chipmunk User Guide](#) for full details.
- 3) Register to receive email notifications. Visit [transinfobhn.ca](#) and click on the **Parent Portal** Link. If you are a first-time user, click on **Create Account** beside the **Log In** button. You can create a new account by providing the portal with an email address and password. The system will email you a verification notice (check your junk email folder in case the message was flagged by your email provider). Once you have verified your email address, go back to the Parent Portal and use both credentials to log in. Once logged in, you can add your child(ren) to your account by clicking on **Add Student** (you will need to have your child(ren)'s OEN number available, street number, school of attendance and the grade that they are in.
- 4) visit <https://transinfobhn.ca/Alerts> daily to see if your bus is running behind schedule or has been cancelled.

If you are having trouble with any of these methods, please reach out to the transportation office by emailing transportation@stsbhn.ca or by calling 519-751-7532.

Basketball Update



Congratulations to all of our Basketball teams who represented Dufferin at the tournaments. Our Junior team progressed to the Elite 8 tournament where they won! Best of luck to them at the North Park tournament and CAGE tournament. Allez Dragons!

Absence Reporting

Under Ministry and Board directives, confirmed COVID cases are no longer reported to the school community. Daily absence rates for all GEDSB schools can be found by visiting the board website: [Absences Reporting Tool](#). Select the school from the drop down menu to view the total percentage of absences (staff and students combined).



Safe Arrivals Program

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. To improve our safe arrival process, we are adding a new system that will make it easier for you to report – and respond to – school absences of your student.

The new student absence reporting system will let you use a mobile app, a web site, or an interactive toll-free phone line to report an absence in advance. As a result, it will take the school less time to verify student attendance, and less time to begin to notify parents and guardians of absences that were unexpected or unplanned.

This time savings makes it faster and more efficient to account for all students and their safety.

If your student is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our new SafeArrival system will be able to rapidly contact you by automated phone call, text message, email, or mobile app push notification to get a reason for the absence. Calls and contacts will continue until you choose an option to explain the absence.

This new, automated SafeArrival process is part of our SchoolMessenger notification system from West, and our new SchoolMessenger mobile app for iOS and Android devices. It'll be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make it convenient for you to report future absences.

You'll soon be receiving more details on how to sign up for SafeArrival and we look forward to all families taking part.

MASKING SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Although masking is no longer mandatory for most students, staff, and visitors within schools or during student transportation, there are certain circumstances where mask requirements remain.

Mandatory Masking:

- A)** Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and have completed a minimum of 5 days of isolation can return to school but will be required to wear a well-fitted mask until Day 10.
- B)** Close contacts and household contacts of individuals with COVID-19 who do not have to isolate are required to wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days after last exposure.
- C)** Anyone who returns from outside Canada, regardless of age and vaccination status, must wear a well-fitted mask at school for 14 days upon return.

BCHU recommends conducting a “personal risk assessment” related to COVID-19 that considers factors such as: personal risk tolerance, underlying health factors of an individual and their loved ones, vaccination status of an individual and their loved ones, any recent or potential exposure to the virus, the nature of the activity, and ongoing interpersonal connections.

Some staff, students and community members will continue to wear masks. It is important to respect and support this decision. We encourage everyone to spend time talking about inclusion and respect.

Wondering what to say if asked why you continue to wear a mask? Here are some response ideas:

“You might not agree with it, but it’s what I want to do right now.”

“This is my choice. I just feel more comfortable this way.”

“What I choose to do for my own health is not a criticism of you.”

“This is about my comfort level. You make your own choices, and I’m making mine.”

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respect others’ choices

everyone should feel comfortable

support and stand up for others

personal choice

encourage discussion

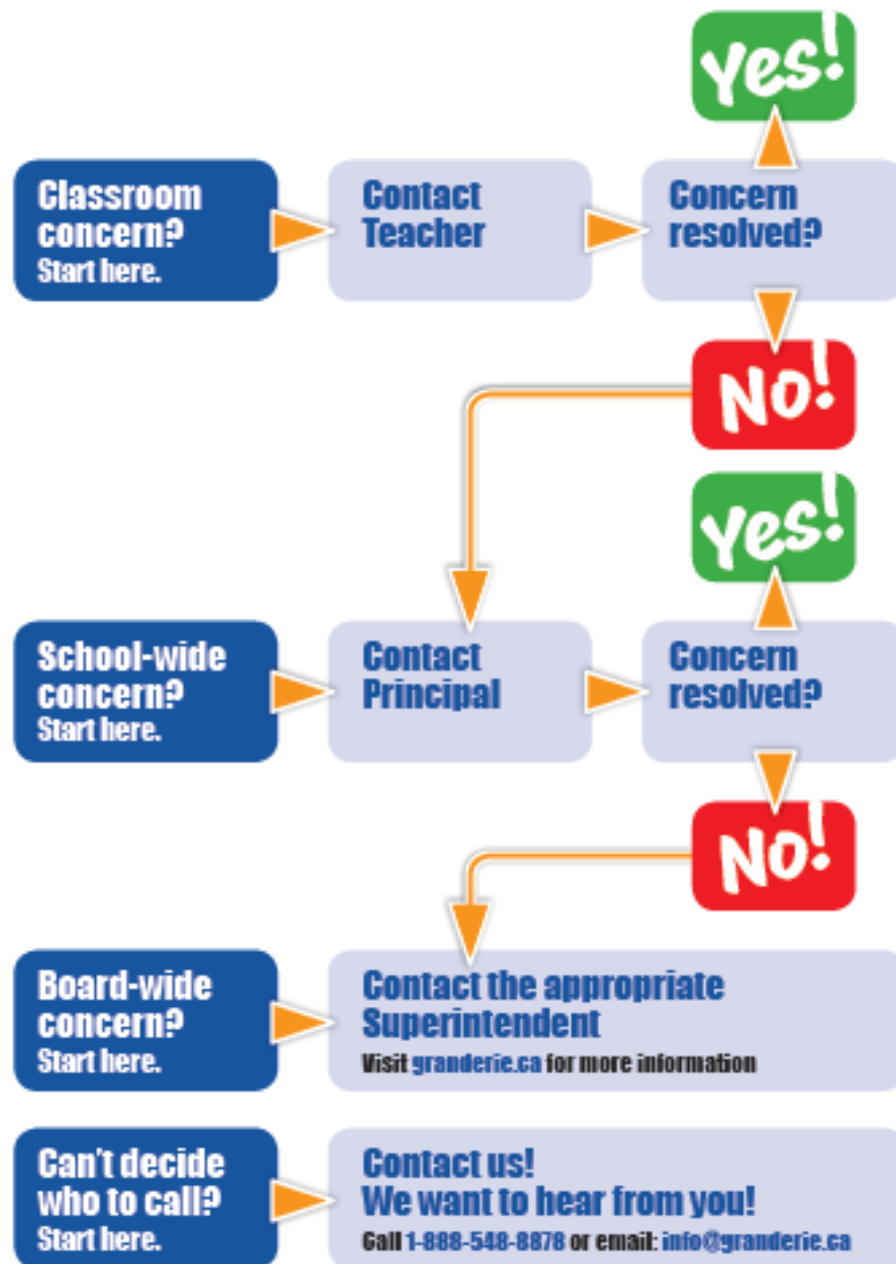
compassion

teach by example

**BRANT COUNTY
HEALTH UNIT**



How to Get Help with a Concern



Your trustee can guide you through this process