



SEPTEMBER 2020

33 White Oaks, Brantford. 519-756-5173

Principal: Mr. Tom Smith Secretary: Carrie Pineau

Dear Parents:

Well, this has been a start unlike any other I have participated in since 1976. I do remember as a child in school, practicing to survive a nuclear blast, but I think this year takes the cake.

As you are aware, the School District has many precautions to provide a safe environment for students and staff this year. We are very happy that not only our Grade 4 to 8 students are wearing masks, but the vast majority of students in Kindergarten and primary are doing so as well. Thank you to those parents who see the value in everyone wearing a mask.

We have over 40 students currently in the Virtual Education program. As such, some of our in-class groups have temporarily been rearranged to allow classes to have fewer students to allow for better physical distancing. So far, all the students are acting very responsibly and are doing their bit to stay safe. You have taught them well.

We are aware that at least some of our families were hit financially during the last few months. I do hope you were at least able to receive the CERB payments to keep afloat. In recognition of this, we have decided to waive the small fee for School Agendas this year. We normally collect \$5, but, because of the lack of expenditures in March to June, we actually have a little money left over to cover this.

As you may have heard, Ontario Education has ushered in a new mathematics curriculum. There are few resources to support it right now, but our teachers are very capable and will be following the new curriculum. What must be learned is not so different from the last curriculum that teachers will have much to carry over anyway. In case you didn't know, the province has decided not to have EQAO exams again this year. Covid-19, virtual learning, new curriculum, etc. indicate that this is a good move.

By now you also know that we can no longer allow for parents to come onto the playground. Of course, this school's yard is so large, that the parents of Primary students are permitted to go to the Ball Diamond area. Again, I thank you all for being so accepting and supportive.

For those families that do before and after school programs, we have an arrangement with the YMCA where parents are to drop off and collect their children at the double doors in the hallway just outside the gym. For this, you can walk your children to/from the door.

Considering our need to be especially vigilant regarding any sickness, we have protocols in place to mitigate this. We always ask that parents keep ill children at home. This year it is imperative that you do so. The possible symptoms of Covid-19 are so generic, that almost any illness has at least one of those symptoms. Flu season is coming. That will be a very interesting time.

The protocols we are required to follow if you have to keep your child at home for illness or if we need to send your ill child home are as follows:

We will isolate that child in a special safe room until there is a parent pickup. Hopefully this will be for a very short time. Once you have received your child you have three options:

CASH ONLINE

Due to Covid-19, we will not be accepting cash at the school for any reason. Therefore, please register for Cash Online. The information and link are on the Granderie Board website.

www.granderie.ca

Newsletters

Online

As in previous years, this will be your only paper copy of the Greenbrier Newsletter. Any subsequent newsletters will be sent electronically to anyone who provides me with their email address.

Cell Phones at School

If students bring a cell phone, and/or any other electronic device to school, that device is the responsibility of the student. Greenbrier school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Students must get their teacher's or the office's permission to text or call a parent to let them know they need to be picked up. Please stress to students that they must get permission before making the call or texting to a parent/guardian.

Greenbrier Organization

Kindergarten	Mrs. Fisher
	Mrs. Beal
SK/1	Ms. Taylor
Grade 1	Ms. Vanderwal
Grade 1/2	Ms. Salole
Grade 3/4	Ms. Howell
Grade 4/5	Mr. Greathead
Grade 5/6	Ms. Merritt
Grade 7	Mr. Lainson
Grade 7/8	Mr. Kobi
Autism	Ms. Sarausky
Tech	Ms. Hoyle
DD	Ms. Francisca
Library/Prep	Ms. Jurkus
Prep	Mr. Rypma
French	Ms. Charlton
LRT	Mrs. Cartwright

Take your child to the doctor (Telehealth or a walk-in clinic or call your Dr.) to have him/her either recommend a Covid-19 test or identify what this illness is. If a different illness, you are to keep your child at home for 24 hours after the symptoms have disappeared. If a Covid-19 test is positive, follow the Branford Health Unit (BHU) instructions.

Take your child for a Covid-19 test. Wait for results. If negative, keep your child for 24 hours after results/symptoms have disappeared. If positive, follow BHU directions.

If you are not able to see a doctor or get a test, you must self-isolate the whole family for 14 days.

These are difficult times, so we do need to err heavily on the side of caution.

I suspect many of you have questions or concerns. I will admit that I do not have all the answers but will do my best to respond to your enquiries.

Regards and Stay Safe,

Tom Smith: Principal

Transportation Delays/ Cancellations, are you getting notified?

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 delays app from either the Google Play or Apple store; detailed instructions on setting up the app is available by visiting <http://www.stsbhn.ca/faqs> and clicking on the last FAQ labelled "Delays and Cancellation App". 2) register to receive email notifications. To register simply visit <https://transinfobhn.ca/Login> and create an account. After your account has been created, connect your child(ren)'s bus service to your email address by logging in and clicking the "Add Student" button. Detailed instructions on setting up your account is also available by visiting <http://www.stsbhn.ca/faqs> and clicking on the FAQ labelled "having trouble logging into the Parent/Student portal". For parents who look up bus information before the start of school, you have already completed this option! 3) 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.

Here if you need us group,

Phil (on behalf of the STSBHN team)

Feedback Form:

September 2020

As always, we sincerely appreciate your feedback. Feel free to let us know your questions, suggestions and compliments at any time.

We appreciate your feedback. Please respond either by paper or electronic means. Send your comments to tom.smith@granderie.ca.

Compliments:

Concerns:

Recommendations:

Student Name: _____ Class: _____

Your Name: _____ Email Address: _____



Student Absences/ Illness

When your child is unwell, they should remain at home to ensure that other students and staff are not exposed to the illness. (See the Covid-19 Protocol in the opening letter)

If your child(ren) are remaining at home, or have an appointment etc., please ensure you call the school before 9:00 a.m.

Grand Erie District School Board Harassment Policy

The Grand Erie District School Board of Education requires us to review the harassment policy with the community on an annual basis, most commonly done through the school newsletter. The Ontario Human Rights Code defines harassment as: "...engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome." Harassment may include comments or conduct by a person towards another person which are intimidating, annoying, hurtful or malicious. Any person who persists in such behavior, based on prohibited grounds, which he or she knows or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome may be guilty of harassment.

We have a procedure in place for our staff to follow, including the issuing of a trespass citation if harassment persists. As community members it is very important that we deal in an appropriate manner with our staff. They work hard to care for and teach your children.

Student Insurance

The Board takes every precaution to provide a safe learning environment for students, but accidents do happen.

Under the Education Act, Ontario school boards are empowered to "provide, by contract with an insurer under the Insurance Act, accident and life insurance for pupils, the cost of which is to be paid on a voluntary basis by the parents or guardians."

For more information, please contact the Board office at (519) 756-6306, ext. 281169.

Reminder: The driveway at the front of the school is for school bus and special needs student drop off and pick up. No other vehicles should be using this driveway at any time. There are parking spaces available in the lot at the side of the school. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Among our newer students, we do have one who is severely allergic to all nuts (peanuts and tree nuts) and sesame, to the point where contact can be life threatening. As a result, we strongly request that no foods containing any kind of nuts (e.g. Peanut Butter, Nutella) or any foods with sesame be brought into the school at all.