

# ÉCOLE CONFÉDÉRATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



54 Ewing Drive  
Brantford, Ontario  
N3R 5H8  
519-751-2891

[www.granderie.ca/schools/ecole  
-confederation](http://www.granderie.ca/schools/ecole-confederation)

## Principal

Andrea Smith

## Vice Principal

Barkev Poladian

## Office Coordinators

Angela Vandeven  
Tracy Czeranko



septembre/  
September 2021

Dear Confédération Families;

Welcome back to the 2021-2022 school year. We hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. We look forward to returning to face to face learning with our students.

As we navigate further into the COVID-19 pandemic, staff have been busy preparing the school and are ready to navigate the protocols in place for this year. We continue our commitment to offer a safe learning environment for all. A reminder that all staff, students, and essential visitors are required to complete the COVID school screening prior to arriving at school. The screening tool has been updated for this year and can be found here:

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

We thank you again for your continued collaboration in making this another successful year at Confédération!

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith  
Principal

M. B. Poladian  
Vice-Principal

### Dates to Remember:

First Day of School-Sept. 7  
Terry Fox Run-Sept. 29  
Orange Shirt Day-Sept. 30

## Student Information Updates

Your child will be bringing home an envelope with important forms that need to be filled out and returned to the school. Documents you will receive are:

1. Current Information Sheet
2. Internet Use Permission Form
3. Early Dismissal Form
4. Declaration of Insurance Form



It is vital that the information on these documents be updated each year to ensure our records are accurate in the event of an emergency, injury, or problem. Please return all completed documents to the school by **September 24, 2020** in the envelope provided.

## School Messenger

In order to maintain communication with our school community, we use the School Messenger service which allows us to send voicemail and email messages. When updating your child's current information sheet at the beginning of the school year, please ensure that you include an updated email address. Remember to check your junk or clutter folders for any messages. For bus notifications, please sign up for notifications on the transportation website (details are outlined later in this letter). All newsletters and school information will be posted on our website: <https://bit.ly/2EcOr8H>

All news will be delivered electronically, through School Messenger email. Paper copies of the newsletter will be available upon request only (notify your child's teacher).

## Deliveries for Students

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, visitors to the school are only permitted in urgent situations. Please avoid dropping items off to the school unless it is absolutely necessary. This should only occur in a rare instance. When you arrive at the school, you will need to ring the buzzer and communicate with the clerical staff through the intercom. A staff member will come to the door to gather the delivered item outside of the school. Please ensure the item is labelled with your child's name. Our school staff will deliver the item to your child.

## Student Absences or Lates

Please ensure that you call the school prior to 9:00 am if your child will be late or absent. Our voice mail system is available to receive messages 24 hours/7 days a week. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, students who arrive late will be met at the front door by a staff member, who will sign them in, provide them with a late slip, and send them to class. Parents and caregivers dropping the child off will not be permitted to enter the school. We appreciate your patience in waiting for a staff person to assist.

## School Attendance

School attendance for all students is tracked for absences and late arrivals. A Grand Erie District School Board attendance counselor works with our school to track student attendance. A letter is sent to individual parents when children have accumulated a significant number of absences and/or lates. Absences of 15 consecutive days can result in the removal of the student from the school's registration. In all other cases of attendance concerns, a notice is sent to parents from the school indicating the total number of lates and absences for a child prior to involvement with the Attendance Counsellor. Please note that if you are planning a family trip or have a reason to take your child out of school for 15 or more consecutive days, you are required to complete a "Request for Absence from School" form from the office (and signed by the principal) prior to the absence. This is a GEDSB policy. This form can also be found on the board website under Procedure SO117.

## Harassment Statement

The Grand Erie District School Board (the "Board") is committed to providing a working and learning environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Beyond the provisions of the Ontario Human Rights Code, every individual has an equal right to learn and work in an environment that is free from harassment and objectionable behaviour. The Board recognizes the value of establishing and maintaining respectful working and learning environments and of responsiveness to the damaging effects of harassment and objectionable behaviour. The Board will not tolerate harassment or objectionable behaviour from any person in the workplace. Full details can be found in Policy HR5 on the Grand Erie website.

## School Hours at École Confédération

The school day is organized in to three instructional blocks and two 40 minute nutritional breaks.

<u>Hours of Instruction</u>	<u>Nutrition Breaks</u>
9:10 – 11:10	11:10- 11:50
11:50 – 1:30	1:30-2:10
2:10 - 3:30	
<u>Office Hours</u> 8:15 - 4:00	

Gr. 1, 2, 3, and 4 students will go outside for the first 20 minutes of each break and then come in to eat. Gr. 5-7 students will eat during the first 20 minutes and then go outside.

Kindergarten students remain in their classrooms during nutrition breaks. Outdoor time is scheduled for two 40 minute blocks of time daily, supervised by the educators assigned to the class.

The school yard is supervised from 8:50 a.m.-3:45 p.m. daily. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:50 a.m. . Students who walk or who are picked up need to depart promptly at the 3:30 bell.

## School Visitors

Visitors to the school will be limited to essential visitors only this year. An appointment is required, with pre-approval by the principal. More details about criteria for essential visitors will be available in the near future. A mask covering face (over nose to under chin) must be worn at all times while visiting. Upon arrival, guests will need to sanitize their hands and then sign the visitor log, indicating all rooms they visit. When leaving, visitors will be required to sign out and sanitize hands once again prior to exiting out the front door.

## Puppies and Pets on the Playground

Families should be aware that pets are not allowed on the playground or in the drop off or pick up zone. Our primary concerns are for safety including students with allergies and the possibility of students hurting pets or vice versa. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

## Student Agendas

Student agendas are an important tool for parent-teacher communication. They are an important part of the learning skills students use to assist with organization. Each student in Grades 1-5 will be provided with a student agenda. We ask for a \$5.00 donation to help off set the cost. Donations are accepted through the school cash online website.

## Peanut/Nut Aware School

A few reminders about food policies at École Confédération:



- \* This is a peanut/nut aware school. Please do not send peanut based products, peanuts, or any nut/soy products that may contain any of these items to the school. The safety of other children depends on this.
- \* Peanut butter substitutes are not allowed in elementary schools in GEDSB.
- \* Food is not permitted on the school playground at recess and at lunch. Students are permitted the opportunity to eat their snacks and lunches prior to going outside or immediately following the morning and afternoon recess periods.

## Family/Student Handbook

A copy of the École Confédération handbook is included in the front of each student agenda (gr. 1-5). A paper copy was sent home with Gr. 6-8 and Kindergarten students. An electronic copy is available on the school website. All relevant information regarding school routines, transportation, expectations of students, cell phone policy, dress code, etc., is provided in this document. Please note that this document does not reflect additional measures put in place due to COVID-19.



## School Council

School councils play a vital role in the education of all Grand Erie students through their work to promote and improve student achievement and school performance. Traditionally, our school council has supported our school with fundraising and hot lunch programs, in addition to other initiatives that enhance the educational experience for our students. Meetings will be virtual using the Microsoft Teams platform and are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Our school council bylaws allow for a minimum of 5 voting members and a maximum of 15. If you are interested in holding a voting seat on the school council you will need to send an email including **your name** and **your child/ren's names** to:

**p-ces@granderie.ca**

along with the following statement:

***I wish to declare my candidacy for a voting position on the École Confédération Parent Council for the 2020-2021 school year.***

The first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, September 22. An email invitation for the meeting will be sent to all candidates. Elections for executive positions will be held during the first meeting.

## Fire Drills and School Lock Down Drills

In accordance with the Fire Department and GEDSB Policy on School Lock Down, your children will be involved in 3 Fire Drills in the Fall and Spring months. Staff will discuss procedures with students later this fall.



## Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a refillable water bottle. All fountains are out of service to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Our water bottle refilling station is open for use. Disposable cups and/or recyclable water bottles are available for any students who have forgotten their water bottle on a given day. Please do not come to school to drop off a water bottle for your child.

## All Grand Erie Schools Are Smoke-Free

The Province's Smoke-Free Ontario Act prohibits smoking tobacco or cannabis and vaping within 20 metres of a school's property line. For reference, 20 metres is the approximate length of 1.5 school buses.



The law covers all indoor areas at schools in Ontario as well as all outdoor spaces, such as playgrounds, parking lots and sports fields. Anyone caught smoking or vaping in a prohibited area could face a minimum fine of \$305.

All Grand Erie schools and Board facility sites are smoke-free. For those looking to quit smoking or vaping, there are supports available through the local Health Unit or our school's Public Health Nurse.

For more information on the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, visit: <https://bit.ly/2FGV4y5>.

## Boomerang Lunches

As a result of restrictions both on student movement in lunchrooms and on the implementation of our student run recycling program, we will be hosting boomerang lunches this year. Students will be asked to take home any recycling or trash created as a result of food consumed for lunch. Families may consider sending an extra, small bag for students to collect these items in or students should use an empty, re-useable container once they have consumed the food inside. We thank you for your support of this new process. Once we are able to safely re-establish our recycling program, we will communicate any changes to boomerang lunches that may be implemented.



## **Student Pick-Up and Drop Off**

Students are welcome to arrive at school any time after 8:50 a.m. when a teacher will be on duty to supervise. Children should not arrive prior to this time due to the absence of supervision by staff.

### **Kindergarten Arrival and Dismissal**

All Kindergarten students can be dropped off at the far end of the school, opposite to the parking lot, each morning, between 8:50-9:10. Kindergarten students will remain outside under the supervision of our DECE staff. Please note that parents are not permitted to stay in the drop off area. Please accompany your child to the gate, have the child enter immediately and then vacate the drop off area. Families will need to park on the side streets adjacent to the school and walk students to this area. Pick up at the end of the day will continue to begin at 3:20 in the same location as drop off at arrival. Parent parking for drop off or pick up is not permitted on Ewing Drive (the street the school is on).

### **Gr. 1-8 Arrival and Dismissal**

Students may cross at the crossing guard in front of the school. Students can walk up the sidewalk to the yard. Parents and caregivers will be limited to the lawn in front of the school. Please practice physical distancing when dropping children off. It is recommended that families wear a mask in the drop off and pick up zone in the event that physical distancing is not possible. Gr. 5-8 and Mme Giancola's class wait outside until the bell rings for instructional time. Gr. 1-3 enter the school directly through their designated doors upon arrival where they are supervised by a staff member in their classrooms.

Adults picking students up at the end of the day (3:30) are welcome to walk and wait on the front lawn. Students being picked up and walking will exit out their designated door and come to the front lawn. A staff member will be under the front canopy to assist.

Please note that dismissal time is very busy for students. It is important for families to establish a clear routine with children and the classroom teacher. If there is a change in routine, a note from the parent/guardian will be expected by the teacher each and every time.

## **Bus Procedures**

We have 9 large buses to transport our students. Dismissal from school at the end of the instructional day is staggered to allow for a safe exit to the buses for all children.



All parents of bused students must provide the school, the Board Transportation Office, and bus company with accurate and up to date information.

Families who are not using transportation services for an extended period of time (i.e. more than a month), are required to contact the school, the bus company, and GEDSB transportation office and have their child taken off the bus list.

Families are advised to contact the bus company and/or GEDSB Transportation Department for all after hours issues and any concerns with buses and transportation schedules and routes.

GEDSB transportation: 519-751-7532

Sharp Bus Lines: 519-751-3434 (bus routes beginning with 5)

First Student: 519-442-2258 (bus routes beginning with 7)



## 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 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](mailto:transportation@stsbhn.ca) or by calling 519-751-7532.

## Important Information for Parents of Bused Students

Families need to go online to check their child's bus information. Always inform the school of any changes made. The TF001 Transportation Form must be filled out and returned to school if families are requesting a change to the bus route or stop assigned to their child/children. To access the forms:

Go to [www.stsbhn.ca](http://www.stsbhn.ca) and click on the "Forms" link

The TF001 Form must be returned to the school for processing. Once the form has been submitted, it could take a few days for the request to be approved. Please communicate with the main office to confirm the date that the change will begin.

**If your child is not taking the bus on a particular day:** You are required to let the teacher know in writing by sending a note that includes the bus number. Please make arrangements with your child before they come to school. Calls to the school to change dismissal arrangements should only be done in an emergency. We can only accept parent phone calls until 1:30 pm on any given school day indicating that there will be a change for the end of that day (unless it is an absolute emergency). If you need to make a change after 1:30 pm, we ask that you go to the pick up zone on the front lawn. Speak to the supervising teacher and ask them to radio for your child to come to meet you.

Students are only permitted to ride on the bus that they are assigned. Permission is not granted for parent or student requests to ride other buses that service Confederation.

## Parking

**Parking on site is reserved for staff only.** There is **no parking** or vehicles allowed on site from 8:45-9:15 daily (morning drop off) and from 3:15-3:45 daily (afternoon pick up). The only exception to this rule would be for those with accessible passes who need to access the 2 designated spots at the front end of the parking lot. If your family has a need to access on site with a vehicle during the prohibited times, but does not have an accessible pass, please contact the main office to discuss possible arrangements. When using the accessible spaces, please use the space only long enough to drop your child off so that access is available to other members of our school community who need it.

Parking is available on the streets adjacent to the school. Please obey the posted parking regulations when parking on the street and be courteous to our neighbours. Students may cross at the crossing guard in front of the school. Students can walk up the sidewalk to the yard. Parents and caregivers will be limited to the lawn in front of the school. Please practice physical distancing and wear a mask when dropping children off.

## Student Accident Insurance

**The Grand Erie District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities, including extracurricular sports.**

If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by their Government Health Insurance Plan or their employer's health care plan. The Board encourages all parents/guardians to review this or other available Student Accident Insurance plans, especially those with a child(ren) participating in medium to high-impact physical activities (both during school and outside of school hours). For higher risk field trips or excursions, students will be required to confirm that they have insurance or will purchase student accident insurance in advance of the trip/excursion. Schools will notify parents/guardians when accident insurance is mandatory.

The insuremykids® student accident insurance program offers three plans with a variety of benefits and affordable rates. Their most affordable plan is available for as little as \$17 per year. All plans provide 24/7 coverage. For more information or to purchase insurance, please visit <https://insuremykids.com/> or call 1-800-463-5437.

The 2021-22 Student Accident Insurance Program is available for purchase beginning August 1, 2021.

**New Feature:** Effective August 1, 2021, in previous years plans could be purchased at any time, but expired September 30th the following year (or for multi-year plans, the September 30th of the following 3 or 5 years). Now if you purchase a single year plan, the expiration date will be 365 days +one month from no matter what date you purchased. (Example: purchase 1-year policy on November 1, 2021, plan will expire on November 30, 2021. The expiration of the multi-year plans will be either a full 3 or 5 years from the date of purchase. (Example: purchase 3-year plan on November 21st, plan will expire on October 31st, 2024)

This new features for all plans allow families the flexibility to purchase whenever they prefer and always received a full period of coverage.

***The Grand Erie District School Board requires that all parents declare whether or not they have accident insurance. A declaration form is attached for parent/guardian review and signature. Please return the completed form to the school.***

### Orange Shirt Day- Sept. 30

In honour of Indigenous families impacted by the Residential School System, we will recognize Orange Shirt Day on Sept. 30.

Students are encouraged to wear an orange shirt on that day.

### Masks for Order

Last year, our Parent Council purchased cloth reuseable face masks for students. This year, those masks are available for purchase through school cash online for \$10.00 each.



**Grey: Youth size fits JK to Gr. 3 students**



**Black Adult Mask fits Gr. 4-8**

### Terry Fox Run

We will participate in the Terry Fox Run on Sept. 29 (Rain date: Oct. 1). Students will learn about Terry Fox and participate in a run/walk around the yard. A staggered schedule will be used to encourage distancing.

Donations of \$1, \$2, and \$5 can be made through School Cash Online. Please do not send cash to school. Proceeds will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation to support cancer research.

## School Security

All parents and school visitors are reminded that it is the policy of The Grand Erie District School Board that all visitors enter the school through the front door and sign in and report their presence in the school or on school property to the office staff at all times. A reminder that due to measures in place to mitigate COVID-19, only essential visitors are permitted entry into the school with prior pre-approval from the principal and a scheduled appointment.

We have security cameras at our school entrance, in some hallways, and at various points around the perimeter of the school. All school entrances from the playground and parking lot are locked at all times. These measures are put in place in all schools to provide a safe learning environment for all children. All portable classrooms and school staff have swipe card access to the school at any time throughout the school day.

## Public Health Information



We are fortunate to have support from our school health nurse, Mme Sarah Sweiger, this year. Both our school nurse and the Brant County Health Unit play a critical role in supporting a healthy school environment at all times, but particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The health unit

has a phone line and email for families who have questions:

[Covid-19@bchu.org](mailto:Covid-19@bchu.org) or 519-753-4937 (press 1)

Specific information on what to do if your child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/35KypfE>

Families and caregivers may also find these Back to School videos by McMaster Children's Hospital helpful:

<https://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/back-to-school>

Topics include masking, talking to children about COVID-19, infection prevention, anxiety, and general information on COVID-19 infection in children.

## Staff List 2020 2021

### Kindergarten:

Mme Hudson & Mme Edwards  
Mme Whitbread & Mme Tkachuk  
Mme Zimmerman & Mme P. Procter  
Mme Mussolum & Mme Inkindi

### Gr. 1:

Mme Giroux, Mme McEwen

### Gr. 1/2:

Mme Desjardins

### Gr. 2:

Mme Banting, Mme Boshell

### Grade 3:

Mme Wilson, Mme Senecal, Mme Balassiano

### Gr. 4:

Mme Morin, Mme Giancola

### Gr. 5

Mme Guillemette, Mme Pickell

### Gr. 6:

Mme S. Gasparotto, M. Snell

### Gr. 7:

Mme Franklin, Mme Raithby

### Gr. 8:

Mme Hennessey, M. Mollon

### Prep. Teachers:

Mme Pettigrew (Music)  
Mme Spicer (Primary Science, Health)  
Mme Esposto (Jr. Science, Health)  
Mme Wiebe (Int. History/Geography, Health)

### Learning Resource Teachers:

Mme Hexamer, Mme V. Gasparotto (also Library, prep)

### EA:

Mme A. Procter

### Clerical Staff:

Mme Czeranko, Mme Vandeven

### Custodians:

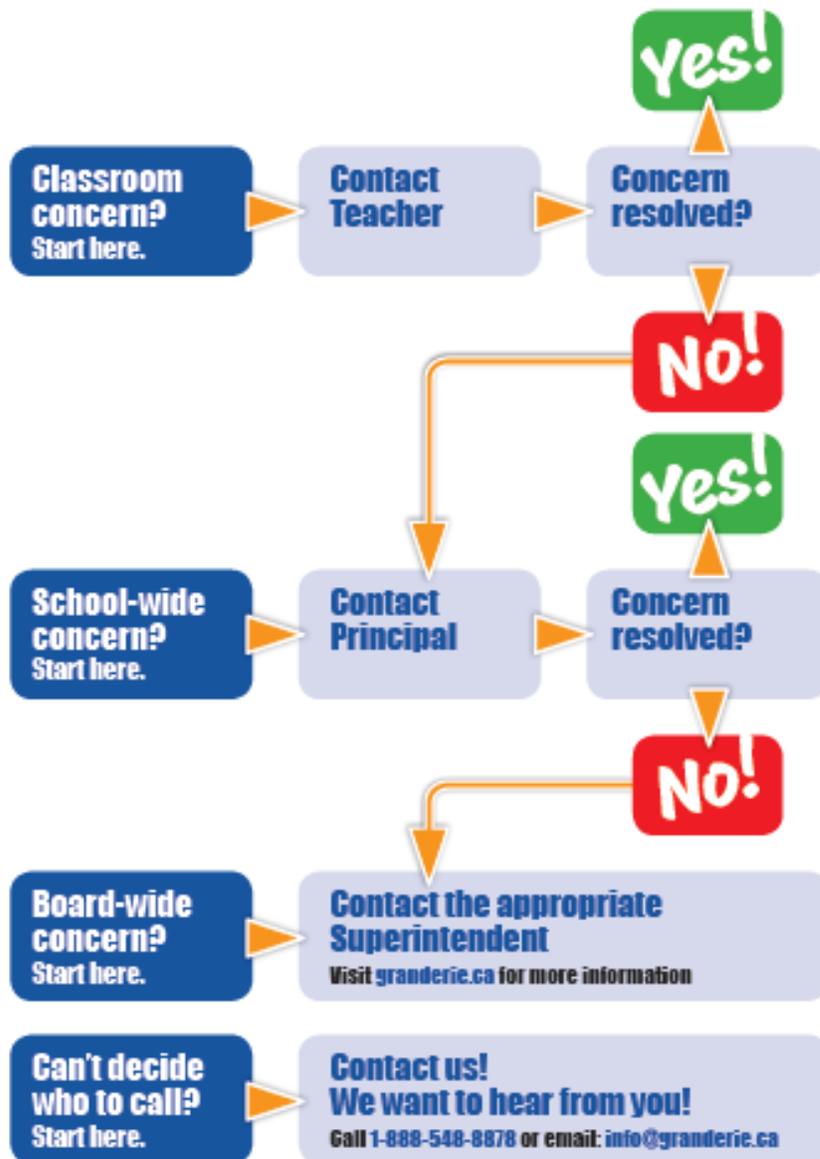
Mme Miller (daytime), Mme Brennan (evening)

### Administration:

Mme Smith, Principal      M. Poladian, Vice-Principal



# How to Get Help with a Concern



**Your trustee can guide you through this process**

Find your Superintendent and Trustee Representative at [GrandErie.ca/Board/About](http://GrandErie.ca/Board/About)