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Principal

Andrea Smith

Office Staff

Melanie Banner

Donna Brown



septembre/September 2022

Welcome back to the 2022-2023 school year! I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing summer. We are looking forward to another great year of learning en deux langues. In order to facilitate home and school communication, our student handbook has been provided to all students (in the front of the agenda for those classes that have agendas). Monthly newsletters and information will also be shared via our School Messenger email system, as well as posted on the Dufferin Parent Council Facebook page. Please ensure we have your correct email address when updating your child's Information Verification Sheet, and join the Dufferin Parent Council Facebook page (details on the next page).

We hope that you will be able to join us for Meet the Staff Night on Thursday, September 22 to see your child's classroom, visit common areas of the school, and meet his/her teacher. Dufferin Parent Council will be organizing food for sale during this event. More details are coming soon.

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith
Principal



Thursday, Sept. 1-PD Day

Tuesday, Sept. 6-First Day of School

Wednesday, Sept. 22– Pizza Day (order online)

Thursday, Sept. 22-Terry Fox Run

Thursday, Sept. 22-Meet the Staff Scavenger Hunt

Friday, Sept. 23-Photo Day

Friday, Sept. 30-Orange Shirt Day

Dufferin Parent Council!

Parents are welcome to join our Facebook page for updates and information about school happenings:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EcoleDufferin>

Remember to answer the 2 questions. The group is limited to primary guardians/parents of students (no students, extended family).

Wednesday, Sept. 14 will be the first virtual meeting at 6:30pm. All are welcome. Email Mme Smith , Principal, for a link to the meeting. Voting membership and executive positions will be determined at this meeting. Come out and get involved in supporting opportunities for our students.

Health and Safety –COVID Updates

Following the latest guidance from the Ministry of Education, there are no COVID related restrictions in effect at Grand Erie schools. Staff and students are no longer required to complete the COVID-19 screening self-assessment prior to attending school or work; however, anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (see the Ontario self-assessment tool for a list), or symptoms of any other illness, should not come to school, but remain at home until well. Students, staff or visitors who choose to wear a mask are welcome to do so. Hand sanitizer is available at all schools, and masks and rapid antigen tests are also available, free of cost, for students and staff. Contact the main office if you would like rapid antigen tests. Anyone who has travelled internationally must still follow Government of Canada guidelines for travellers. Grand Erie is following all Ministry guidelines with respect to ventilation in schools. The publicly available ventilation report by school is available on the GEDSB website.



Volunteers

Please be aware that there is a Board policy with regards to volunteers. This pertains to anyone who comes into contact with the students in our schools: classroom helpers, drivers, trip supervisors, etc.



The Board requires everyone to have a police check, including the vulnerable sector screening. A letter from the school will be provided for you to take to the closest police station to request such a check.

The school will require the original copy and will keep a photocopy at the office. The police check is valid for three full years, at which time it will need to be completed again.

Plan ahead. Police checks can take up to 3 weeks to process. Contact the main office if you are unsure of the expiry date on your current police check and/or if you require a letter to take to the police station.

Student Pick-Up and Drop Off

Please note that students are welcome to arrive at school any time after 8:30 a.m. when a teacher will be on duty to supervise. Children should not arrive prior to this time.

For student safety reasons, the parking lot is **not** available for dropping students off for school in the morning or picking them up at the end of the day. Families may use any of the sidestreets surrounding the school, with the exception of in front of the houses on Chestnut Ave (facing the front door of the school). This zone is designated for permit parking for neighbourhood residents. Anyone parking in this area could be subject to a parking ticket.

Edwin St. is our designated bus drop off and pick up zone. Please avoid parking in this area.

Safe Arrivals Program & Student Absences

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

The new student absence reporting system lets 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 takes 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.

If your child is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our new SafeArrival system is 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 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make it convenient for you to report absences.

If your child has an appointment, please call the office in advance or send a note, or e-mail your child's teacher. This will help to eliminate calls to the office and class disruptions.

We have a very busy office so please minimize the calls to our office for urgent circumstances only. Our administrative assistants cannot deliver personal messages to classes. After school arrangements need to be made with your children in advance.

Thanks for your assistance in advance !!

September Information Coming Home

There are many important documents that come home at the beginning of each school year. Your child brought home the following documents, which you may keep for reference and information:

1. 2022 2023 School Year calendar
2. Student Handbook (in the front of the agenda for those classes that use agendas).

Additional documents have been sent home that **must be filled out, signed, and returned to the school:**

1. Student Information Verification Sheets
2. Student Accident Declaration (required to attend trips)
3. Internet Use Permission Forms
4. Early Dismissal Form
5. Community Walk permission form



These sheets will be sent home with each student. They are sent home annually to update the student information files for all students. It is vital that this information be updated each year to ensure emergency contact with parents in the event of an injury or problem. Please look for these and return them to the school **before September 16th.** Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Visitors

All visitors to the school are required to check in at the main office and sign in. If you are coming to the school to drop something off or deliver an urgent message to your child, please do this through the main office. We appreciate your cooperation!



Accident Insurance Requirements for Students

Student accident coverage is recommended and voluntary for parents to consider for their child. It is important for parents to understand that the Board does not provide insurance for students against any accidental death, disability, dismemberment or medical expenses that might occur as a result of accident during school activities, including sporting events and field trips.

Insure My Kids protection plan is made available to parents, at low cost, to provide benefits for dental injuries and other accidents which may occur through participating in high-risk activities. In fact, there are options in the package for coverage outside of school hours including holidays and weekends. Please visit www.insuremykids.com for more information.

Many parents may have accidental coverage as part of their employers benefit plan. It's important for parents to review their plans to make sure they have the necessary coverage for high-risk activities. Parents may want to consider purchasing additional personal coverage to reduce the anxiety associated from an injury to their child.

Grand Erie District School Board requires that all parents declare whether or not they have accident insurance. A declaration form is being sent home at the beginning of the school year for parent/guardian review and signature.



Harassment Statement

The Grand Erie District School Board has a zero tolerance policy toward all forms of harassment. The Board is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free of harassment, which supports productivity and the personal goals of dignity and self-esteem of every individual. The Board expects all students, staff and visitors to behave in a respectful, courteous and appropriate manner at all times. The Board will respond to all forms of unacceptable behaviour in a manner consistent with the Board Policy / Procedure on Harassment. To view the policy, please visit the Board's website at <http://www.granderie.ca> and select the drop down menu titled Board.

Peanut/Nut Aware School

A few reminders about food policies at École Dufferin:

- * 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.



School Hours at École Dufferin

All elementary schools in The Grand Erie District School Board operate on a Balanced Day Schedule. The school day is organized in to three instructional blocks and two 40 minute nutritional breaks.

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

Kindergarten to Gr. 4 students will go outside for the first 20 minutes and then come in to eat. Gr. 5-8 students will eat during the first 20 minutes and then go outside.

The school playground is supervised from 8:30 a.m.-3:20 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 at the 3:10 bell.

All students must remain on school property during the day unless they have parent permission. Students are asked to remain on school property for the first nutrition break (10:30-11:10). Those who have permission to leave the property for lunch will do so on the second nutrition break (1:10-1:50). Students in Gr. 8 may have leave the property on the second break with a signed form completed by their family.

We expect that all students will display good manners and be respectful of each other during the Nutrition/Fitness breaks. Students must follow lunchroom routines under the supervision of school staff.

Important Information for Parents of Bused Students

You now must go online to check your child's bus information. Always inform the school of any changes made.

TF001 Transportation Form must be filled out and returned to school. To access the forms:



1. Click on the transportation link on the GEDSB website.
2. From the home page of the Transportation website, click on "Forms" <https://stsbhn.ca/forms>

If you are unable to access the form, contact our clerical staff in the main office for assistance.

If you make a change to your child's bus route at any time you must fill out the Transportation form TF001, The TF001 Form must be returned to the school for processing. Do not send it directly to transportation. Processing these requests can take time. 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 or the main office know in writing by sending a note or email. Please include the bus number. We ask that you make your arrangements with your child before they come to school. Please do not call the school with bus changes for the day unless it is an emergency.

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 Dufferin.

Contact Dave Imre in the transportation department for any questions: 519-751-7532, ext. 282203 or contact the bus company directly at Sharp Bus lines 519-751-3434 (routes beginning with 5), First Student 855-522-3232 (routes beginning with 7), Voyago 519-455-4579 (routes beginning with 8).

Staff Contacts

The health and well-being of our staff and students is a priority for us. An important part of this is ensuring that staff have healthy and professional boundaries between work and home/family. Our staff remain committed to maintaining open and responsive lines of communication. While you are welcome to send emails during timelines that are convenient for you, know that staff responses may be limited to their working hours. There will be times during the year (for example, interview times) when staff will communicate after hours. Outside of that, staff are not required to respond to emails in the evenings and on weekends. We appreciate your support and understanding as we continue to promote Health and Well-Being for all.



Staff List 2022 2023

Kindergarten: Mme Roarke & Mme Morel

Kindergarten: Mme Bailey & Mme Rochette

Gr. 1: Mme Gonçalves

Gr. 1/2: Mme DaVila (LTO for Mme Romeiko)

Gr. 2/3: M. Burton

Gr. 3: Mme Simmonds

Gr. 4/5: Mme Guy

Gr. 5/6: Mme Szydowski

Gr. 6: Mme Haughton

Gr. 7: Mme L. Smith

Gr. 7/8: Mme Norden

Gr. 8: Mme Macoretta

Primary Prep.: Mme Solis Caro

Arts Prep.: Mme Coretti

Phys. Ed. Prep.: M. Zylstra

LRT: Mme Gibbon

EA: Mme Piovesan, Mme Bosnjak

Clerical: Mme Banner

Clerical (pm): Mme Brown

Day Custodian: M. Kovacs

Evening Custodian: Mme Dionne

Principal: Mme A. Smith

Join us for Meet the Staff Scavenger Hunt

Thursday, September 22 from 5:30-7:00pm

DPC will be selling pizza and water.

Freezies will also be sold to help raise funds for a new kindergarten shed outside.

Visit your child's classroom, see the inside of the school, and meet our staff! Enter a draw for a family games night prize package.

This is a drop in event. Families do not need to plan to attend for the entire time/at a specific time. Arrive when you are able, complete your location visits, enter your ballot in our draw, and enjoy the rest of your evening.

Parent -teacher interviews will **not be available during this time. To discuss your child's progress with his or her teacher, please contact the teacher directly and confidentially. All families will have the opportunity for a 1:1 interview with the teacher in November. Details and sign up will be shared closer to the date.*