



Volume 2, Issue 2

Ecole Dufferin

October 2017



Newsletter Date: October, 2017

WOW !!! September has quickly turned into October. It was wonderful seeing many of you at Meet the Teacher Night. We hope that you enjoyed visiting your child's classroom and meeting the "creature" who will be teaching your child this year.

We have completed three fire drills for the Fall and will be doing our mandated lockdown practices in October. Our students now know the procedures and did a fantastic job!!!

We had our first Parent Council meeting and hope to see many more on October 11th at 6:30. Our nutrition program is up and running **MERCI** to our great coordinator, Mrs. Farrow and all her volunteers.

Halloween is also fast approaching and our school will be having our annual parade on October 31st. Our parade will begin at 2:00.

Please remember that attendance at school is very important as days missed mean many wonderful learning experiences also missed. We understand that children do get sick throughout the year and that they need to be kept home, however, many children are late for school which also impacts on their school day. Please make sure that your children are at school by 8:40 in the morning. If they are late, please have them sign in and get a late slip. We also ask that if your children will be absent, please call us anytime at 519-752-8232. Our answering machine is on twenty four hours and you may leave a message.

Please also remember that as part of the Safe Schools protocols, parents may not wander the school. Parents also cannot take their children to class or pick them up from class. Our protocol is that parents sign in at the office when entering the school and the office will assist you with signing in and out.

If you have not already done so, please make sure that the teachers and the school have your e-mail address. All important notices, newsletters, and forms will be sent directly to your e-mail address. This is a great communication tool for all of us.



Dates to Remember:

Oct. 3rd	PD Day (NO SCHOOL)
Oct. 4th	Subway Day
Oct. 9th	Thanksgiving (NO SCHOOL)
Oct. 10th	Photo Day
Oct. 11th	Parent Council 6:30
	Pizza Day
Oct. 18th	Pita Pit Day
Oct. 25th	Pita Day
Oct. 31st	Halloween Parade 2:00 PM



School Website

Please make sure to check our school website, <http://www.granderie.ca/schools/dufferin>

Our student handbook, school news, and school newsletters are currently posted.



Ecole Dufferin Fundraiser!

Is there anything yummier??? The perfect treat for anyone ... especially on Christmas morning!! Here are the details .. Purchase either a box of 9 Minibon and/or a gift certificate (redeemable at any Ontario or Nova Scotia location) at a cost of \$12.00 (retail is \$14.49) ... Orders can be made on <https://schoolcashionline.com/> ... or cash / cheque made payable to Dufferin School ... Orders MUST be completed by November 30 and delivery dates will vary per class – December 12, 13 or 14.

PS – they freeze REALLLY well!



Lockdown and Fire Drills

Every year, schools are required to do a number of fire drills and lockdown practices.

We will have our two lockdown practices for the year in October. We encourage parents to continue to talk to their children about this. It's important for children to understand that lockdowns take place for a variety of reasons: intruder, unsafe student behaviour in the school, a situation taking place in the school neighbourhood. It's also important for students to know that these lockdowns are in place to keep the children safe.

We also have three fire drills in the Fall and three in the Spring. Students have been advised where they need to exit as well as their alternate exits in the school.

As part of your parent talk, ask the children to explain to you the procedures. This is not only good practice for them but also a great way to relieve some of the anxiety.



Nut Allergy Alert !!!

Some students in our school have **severe allergies** to nut products that could cause death.

A plan is in place at the school to assist in case of an allergic reaction with the specific students.

We ask our school community for understanding that this matter is serious and ask that you refrain from sending nut products to school with your children.



From Parent Council

Please join us at our next School Council meeting on October 11th at 6:30 !

We are looking forward to a great year at Ecole Dufferin. Daycare is provided and we invite everyone to join us.

All parents are welcome !!!



Reminders about Student Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

The Ministry of Education has published a new document entitled Growing Success which outlines procedures and practices related to student assessment, evaluation, and reporting. Growing Success is intended to guide the collection of meaningful information that will help inform instructional decisions and promote student engagement while improving student learning. Parents have an important role to play in supporting student learning and therefore need to be fully informed about students’ progress.

- ◆ Learning Skills include Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative and Self-Regulation. These now appear on the 1st page of the report card. An example of the descriptors for the Learning Skills is included for information.
- ◆ To ensure equity for all students, major assignments for evaluation and tests are to be completed under the supervision of the teacher. Therefore, work done at home may not be used for evaluation purposes.
- ◆ There will be an Elementary Progress Report Card that will come home the week of November 13th. The purpose of this Progress Report is to show development of the students’ learning skills and work habits (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory or Needs Improvement), as well as a student’s general academic progress (Progressing with Difficulty, Progressing Well, Progressing Very Well) in the fall of the school year.
- ◆ There will be a formal interview on November 16th at night from 3:00 - 8:00 and November 17th in the morning from 8:00 - 12:00.
- ◆ There will be two Elementary Provincial Report Cards sent home at the end of January and the end of June. Interviews will only be scheduled if needed due to academic or behavioural concerns.



Work Habits - Sample Behaviours that will appear on the Progress Report

Responsibility	The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fulfils responsibilities and commitments within the learning environment;• completes and submits class work, homework, and assignments according to agreed-upon timelines;• takes responsibility for and manages own behaviour.
Organization	The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• devises and follows a plan and process for completing work and tasks;• establishes priorities and manages time to complete tasks and achieve goals;• identifies, gathers, evaluates, and uses information, technology, and resources to complete tasks
Independent Work	The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• independently monitors, assesses, and revises plans to complete tasks and meet goals;• uses class time appropriately to complete tasks;• follows instructions with minimal supervision.
Collaboration	The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• accepts various roles and an equitable share of work in a group;• responds positively to the ideas, opinions, values, and traditions of others;• works with others to resolve conflicts and build consensus to achieve group goals;
Initiative	The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• looks for and acts on new ideas and opportunities for learning;• demonstrates the capacity for innovation and a willingness to take risks;• demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning;• approaches new tasks with a positive attitude;
Self-Regulation	The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sets own individual goals and monitors progress towards achieving them;• seeks clarification or assistance when needed;• assesses and reflects critically on own strengths, needs, and interests;• identifies learning opportunities, choices, and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals.

Safe Welcome



Grand Erie District School Board implemented the Safe Welcome Program within all of its elementary schools.

Parents can now expect that all elementary school entrances are kept locked during the school day to prevent entry from anyone who does not have authorization.

Closed circuit television and controlled access buzzers were included in the installations.

School administrators, teachers and secretaries have been notified of the program guidelines and protocols as well as the system functions to continue to ensure that our schools remain safe and secure places for our students to achieve and succeed in their learning.

Please be advised that students in the building have been told not to open doors to anyone. The use of the buzzer to the secretary’s desk is the only way into the school. If you are a visitor at the school, we ask that you do not let in other visitors/parents as they will need to use the buzzer to come in as well. This is sometimes frustrating as people may have to wait to be let in. Please be patient with our staff as we are following board protocols. These protocols are in place to keep the children and staff at the school safe.

As parents, we want our children to be safe at school and want to help them when a conflict occurs. As a school, we teach the students about Kelso’s Choices and TRIBES to problem solve through conflicts with peers. Sometimes, children will require adult support to assist in conflict resolution.

As a school, we sometimes find that parents and students use the term bullying during any type of conflicts with students and their children. In order to assist you in distinguishing the difference between conflict and bullying, we have included a chart for your use.

Conflict VS. Bullying

Happens occasionally	Happens repeatedly
Accidental, shows empathy	Done on purpose, targetting
Not serious, rough housing, pushing	Serious-threat of physical harm or emotional or psychological hurt
Equal emotional reaction by both	Strong emotional reaction on part of victim
Not seeking power or attention	Seeking power or control
Not trying to get something	Trying to gain material things, or power
Remorseful - takes responsibility	No remorse - blames victim
Effort to solve problem	No effort to solve problem