

Ecole Dufferin

September 2017

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From the Principal's Desk

Bonjour !!! I'd like to introduce myself as your new principal. My name is Sandy Bonbled and I am very fortunate to get the opportunity to be part of a French speaking school where I can finally use my French. I am looking forward to being at Ecole Dufferin and work with a great team of students, staff, and community.

Welcome back for another great year at Ecole Dufferin. We hope that everyone has had a relaxing and fun summer as we begin a new journey at Ecole Dufferin. A great big welcome to any new families in our school and community, as well as to all the familiar faces. We want to remind all of you that our new student handbook, the upcoming school plan, and school newsletters, will all be posted on the school website. Please be advised that the Board is currently creating new websites for all schools. Once our website is up and running, please make sure to visit our school website for ongoing communication. **Please be advised that only the first newsletter will go out in paper form. All others will be e-mailed to you via our School Messenger and posted on the website.**


Welcome to our new staff members: **Mme Franklin**, Prep teacher for our Primary team and **Mlle Smith**, our grade 6/7 teacher. We also want to welcome our new half time administrative assistant, **Mme Rayfield**.

Dates to Remember:



Sept. 13th	School Council (6:30)
Sept. 14th	Meet the Teacher (5:30-7:00)
Sept. 15th	PD Day (No School)
Sept. 29th	Terry Fox Run
Oct. 3rd	PD Day (No School)
Oct. 9th	Thanksgiving
Oct. 10th	Picture Day

School Volunteers - Police Check Requirements !!!



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, etc ...

The Board requires everyone to have a police check, including the vulnerable sector portion. 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 to see the original copy and will keep a photocopy at the office. The police check is valid for two full years, at which time it will need to be completed again.

Make sure to get these done as soon as possible. Any further questions or the letter for a police check, please contact Mrs. Wallace or Mrs. Rayfield.

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.

PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY !!!

Last week, we sent home student information and inclement weather forms. Please make any necessary changes, sign and return to the school as soon as possible. Remember to notify the office if any of this information changes throughout the year. Please remember to include more than one contact number in case of emergencies.



- If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please call the school and leave a message. The answering machine is on twenty-four hours a day. Please call **519-752-8232**.
- If your child has an appointment, please call the office in advance or send a note or e-mail your child's teacher. You can contact teachers through the school website. 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 !!



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 see the brochure for information or visit www.insuremykids.com.

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. **All forms MUST be returned with an ANNUAL DECLARATION.**



Sign-In Policy

When you enter the school, you must sign in at the office and be sure to wear our visitor pass when in the school.



This assures students and staff that the adult in the building has permission to be in the school. If you do not wear a visitor pass, staff will ask you to go to the office to sign in.

We have these policies in place as we make every effort to keep your children safe while at school.

Meet The Teacher Night

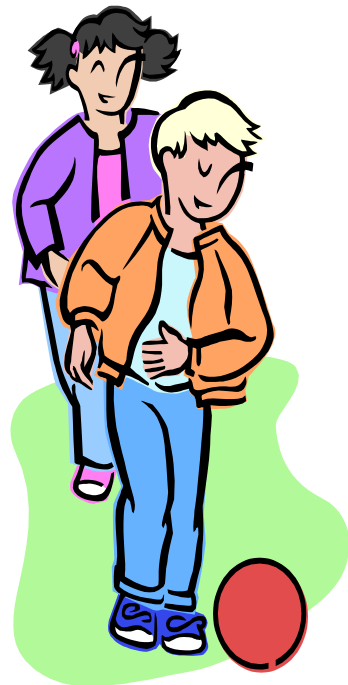
This is a celebration of a new beginning and we encourage the whole family to partake in this fun night. There will be pizza and drinks for sale thanks to our Parent Council Group. Pizza will be \$2.00 and drinks \$1.00. We will gather outside to socialize and serve pizza from 5:30-6:00 and then move into the school for class presentations. We will begin presentations at 6:00 and 6:30, for those with two or more children. The staff presentations will assist you to be informed as to the classroom's procedures and curriculum. We hope to make this event an exciting one for parents and children.



Please remember that this is not an interview night to discuss the progress of your child. It is a social night to greet and meet your child's teacher. Should you wish to discuss your child, please make an appointment with the teacher. We look forward to seeing everyone Thursday night, Sept. 14th at 5:30.

School Day Schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Staff on yard duty
8:50 a.m.	School day begins
10:30a.m.	Nutrition Break & Recess (40 min.)
11:10 a.m.	Classes resume
1:10 p.m.	Nutrition Break & Recess (40 min.)
1:50 p.m.	Classes resume
3:10 p.m.	Dismissal



Homework

With the start of the new school year, many students will notice a slightly increased workload contingent upon their new grade at school. As parents, you can help them with the discipline required to focus on their studies. Following are a few tips that may be helpful:

- Set a regular time for homework
- Provide a quiet space for study
- Remove distractions - including the phone and TV
- Make certain your children have the support and resources they need to study. These might include a ride to the library, access to a computer, or special supplies.
- Help your children with their homework- but don't do it for them.
- Read to your children - especially when they're very young. Studies show that children whose parents read to them, do better in school.



Behaviour Code and Dress Code

Please take the time to read and review the behaviour code and dress code with your child throughout the year. This handbook will be sent home shortly and will be included in the student agendas next year. You will also be able to locate it on the school website, once it is up and running.



Rules are in place to keep your children safe and to allow us to promote a learning environment where children thrive.

Our goal is to provide the best education for your children. We want to equip your children with the skills they need to become good citizens in life.

Student School Agendas

All of our students, from grades one to grade eight will receive an agenda. They will be different in content and size, depending on the division. **The cost for agendas is \$5.00.** Our Cash Online is available for you to pay for the agendas.

Agendas are used to inform parents of events, homework, and is a useful communication tool between parents and teachers.

Please make sure to check these nightly and please sign, if requested by the teacher to do so.



Bussing - How Can You Help the Office ?

To assist our administrative assistants, please inform the teacher and the office if your child is being picked up at the end of the day.

If you are arriving to pick up your child right at the end of the day, at 3:10, you **MUST** inform the bus patrollers that your child will not be on the bus. This will assist us with accuracy and accountability at the end of the day.

Thank you so much in advance for assisting us with this as we care about the safety of our students. We appreciate your assistance !!!



ONLINE PAYMENTS IS HERE!

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of Cash & Cheques coming into our school. School related expenses are now available online for you to make payment. This process allows you to go online and view our hot lunch orders, your child's field trips, and you can easily pay for all these with only a click of a button.

Please take the time to sign up as we have many school items already on there for our September start-up.



Parents please register!

Here's how:

- Step 1: Go to this website:
<https://104.schoolcashonline.com>
- Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps
- Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.