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octobre—October 2016

Dear Confédération Families;



As September draws to a close, it is hard to believe that we have been back to school for an entire month! Thank you to our staff, students, families, support personnel, and community partners for helping us get the 2017-2018 school year off to a great start! It was great to meet so many of our families at our annual Meet the Teacher open house.

As we look forward to the month of October, we are reminded of the many exciting events happening in our families, our community, and at our school. From sporting events to outings and visitors, our students *will be busy learning from many enriching opportunities.*

As we approach the Thanksgiving weekend holiday, we hope you will all have the opportunity to relax, refresh and take a moment to reflect on all we have to be thankful for.

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith
Principal

Mme. L. Hearn
Vice-Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Oct. 3 - PD Day-No school for students
Oct. 4- Fresh from the Farm orders due
Oct. 9—Thanksgiving Holiday-School Closed
Oct. 10—Pizza days start
Oct. 11-Cross Country Meet
Oct. 13—Trip to Safety Village (Gr. 1 & 2-some classes)
Oct. 16—Courage assembly
Oct. 18-Photo Day for JK-Gr. 2/3, Junior Soccer tournament
Oct. 19—Photo Day for Gr. 3-8, Gr. 1 to Brantwood Farms
Oct. 20-Intermediate Soccer tournament
Oct. 20—Gr. 4-6 to Sanderson Centre
Oct. 31 -- Trip to Safety Village (Gr. 1 & 2 –some classes)
Nov. 3—Gr. 7 & 8 immunizations

Information and Updates

There are several ways for families to keep up to date with information about our school:



1. Visit our website :

granderie.ca/confederation

2. Sign up for École Confédération's **REMIND** account.:
 - 1) go to your texts
 - 2) enter in the "TO" line: **226-799-0230**
 - 3) type **@confedcour** in the message box
 - 4) send

REMIND is completely blind, we don't see your contact info and you don't see ours. Cancel at any time.

3. Follow us on Twitter: [@EcoleConfedGE](https://twitter.com/EcoleConfedGE)

All newsletters, office forms, and school information will be found on the website (still currently under construction).

Paper copies of the newsletter are available upon request only (notify your child's teacher). All tweets with the hashtag #confedcourage appear on our school website.

Thanks4giving Food Drive

We are currently collecting donations of non-perishable food items for the Thanks4giving food drive until October 6th. All proceeds will go to the Brantford Food Bank. Items will be accepted until Thursday, October 6th. Thank you for your support of this cause.



Monthly Assemblies

Our school motto is "Courage". We will be recognizing students for demonstrating courage in the following ways as the year progresses: **C**uriosity, **O**pen-mindedness, **U**nderstanding, **R**esilience, **A**ction, **G**enerosity, **E**ncouragement. Our first assembly will be on Oct .16th. A student "Comité Courage" has been established and will be working on promoting our Character Ed. Program as well as hosting each assembly.

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.



Participation 150 Updates

Thanks to all families who sent in photos of their summer activities. We have been able to check off many more activities on our school list. We still have a few to go to get to our goal of completing all 150 by the end of December! Here are some of the activities we are still looking for participants for:

Wheelchair Basketball	Pilates	Archery
Housework	Surfing	Billiards
Tree Climbing	Boccia	Trampolineing
Washing the Car	Hacky Sack	Croquet
Marco Polo	Hunting	Kayaking

If you have a photo of any of our students or their families completing these activities, please email them to confederation150@gmail.com

Head Lice

Parents are asked to check their child's head regularly in order to keep head lice under control. We have some volunteer parents who come in to the school to help with head checks, as needed. If you are interested in volunteering to help with head lice checks, please contact the office. If a student is found to have live lice, parents will be contacted and asked to pick up the child immediately. Parents of students with nits only will be contacted and asked to pick up the child if possible. Before a child can be readmitted to school, it will be necessary for the lice to be treated and the nits completely removed, followed by a head check to be made by school staff. For more information on treating head lice, visit the Brant County Health Unit website at: <http://bit.ly/2dxDj6s>

A Note From Our Public Health Nurse... Healthy Breakfast

Breakfast is a nutritious and delicious way to start the school day!

To help your child do their best in school this year and keep their energy up throughout the day, start them off with a breakfast of champions. Children who eat a balanced breakfast will perform better in school and will develop healthier eating habits as they grow older.

To make each morning's breakfast a breeze, keep these easy tips in mind:

- Keep a well-stocked kitchen: Have whole-grain cereals, milk, yogurt, whole grain breads and bagels, fruit, peanut butter, and cheese on hand
- Prepare in advance: Prepare the night before. Set the table, cut up any fruit and have cereal all ready to go for the next morning
- Wake up earlier: Waking up a little earlier will allow for a more relaxed breakfast
- Include everyone: Include children in planning and making breakfast by letting them choose breakfast items and getting them to help you clean up afterwards

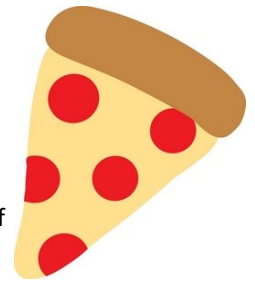
Variety is the spice of life: Include foods from at least 3 of the 4 food groups (Canada's Food Guide) and make breakfast an exciting time by trying these quick and easy breakfast ideas:

- Grilled cheese sandwich with melon slices on the side
- Smoothie made with fruit, yogurt, and nut butter
- Scrambled eggs wrapped in a tortilla with milk on the side
- Whole grain cereal or trail mix stirred into yogurt with a piece of fresh fruit
- Whole grain cereal, banana and milk

For more healthy living tips and ideas, visit Eat Right Ontario www.eatrightontario.ca, or speak to the public health nurse at your school.

Hot Lunch Updates

Pizza lunches for the month of October start Tuesday, Oct. 10th. Parents should be aware that orders received after the due date will not be included. If you are interested in volunteering to help with Pizza Days, please contact the school.



School Cash Online

We continue to encourage families to register for the School Cash Online Payment system. Registration is fast and easy.

Step 1: Visit: www.schoolcashonline.com

Step 2: Select "Get Started Now" and follow the steps to register

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.

The **Parent Help Desk** available to support you in using School Cash Online. Friendly staff are available 24/7 (365 days) and can support you with registration, password recoveries, finding children or any check out or payment issues.

All school events, such as fundraising and school trips, will be available through the School Cash Online system this year.

If you are not able to access School Cash Online and require accommodation to place orders or make payments at any time, please contact the main office and we will be happy to assist you.



Special Education Update

IEP Reporting-New Changes

The reporting periods for your child's IEP have changed based on recommendations from the provincial Special Education Committee. Effective September 2017, your child's IEP will be reviewed and updated within the first 30 instructional days of school, with the Term 1 report card in January and the Term 2 report card in June. As always, we welcome communication and continue conversations about your child's progress, on-going achievement of learning skills, work habits and curriculum expectations at any time.

Additional information about special education services is available through the following website:

www.granderie.ca/board/elementary/special-education

If you have any questions, please contact the school for assistance.

School Safety Procedures

We have had 3 fire drills this fall. Well done by all staff and students! Following that, we will be conducting 1 lockdown drill before the December break. These practices are mandatory for all schools in GEDSB.

Terry Fox Run

Thanks to all families who sent in donations for the Terry Fox Run. Our school raised close to \$700 for the Terry Fox Foundation.



School Council

Thanks to all who came out to the first school council meeting. The next meeting will be on October 18th @ 6:00 in the library. All are welcome. Child minding is available. The list of voting members and executive positions will be posted on the school website following the next meeting.

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)
For parents to connect, they can go through:

1. Board website (click on transportation link),
2. Go to www.stsbhn.ca and click on the "transportation information" link, or
3. Go directly to <https://www.transinfobhn.ca/> and save in your Favourites (since this is a secure site, may have to click on "continue to the web site" the first time)

If you make a change to your child's bus route at any time you MUST fill out the Transportation form TF001. Form are available from the office or you can find them on the school or Transportation website. The TF001 Form must be returned to the school for processing. DO NOT SEND it directly to transportation

IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT TAKING BUS HOME ON A PARTICULAR DAY: You are required to let the teacher know in writing by sending a note "That your child will be picked up and not taking the bus that day." Please include the bus #. 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 Confederation.

As a result of the very high volume of daily parent notes and phone calls to change the bus arrangements for children at dismissal, we can only accept parent notes and phone calls until 1:00 pm on any given school day indicating that there will be a change (unless it is an absolute emergency). If you need to make a change after 1:00 pm, we ask that you not call but meet your child at the end of day, outside at the bus area, before they board the bus. Please let the teacher in charge of bussing and the bus driver know they will not be taking the bus home. Thank you for your cooperation!
Contact Dave Imre in the transportation department for any questions: 519-751-7532, ext. 282203 or Sharp Bus lines 519-751-3434.

Student Drop Off Zone



Thanks to all families for helping us to keep traffic moving each morning in the drop off zone. A reminder that there is absolutely no parking in this area before the entry bell at 9:10am. Parents who wish to wait outside the gate after dropping their children off will need to park off site. The parking lot at school is reserved for staff parking only.

Dismissal Procedures

We have been doing a great job of keeping the bus loading zones clear and working towards getting all 9 buses loaded and on their way in a timely manner at the end of the day. A reminder that all students who walk home or are picked up are to exit the school through the gym doors. Caregivers need to meet children in this area at pick up time, which is 3:20 for Kindergarten students and 3:30 for all students in grades 1-8. Note that there are no vehicles, other than school buses, allowed on site for student pick up between 3:15 and 3:45 daily.

The area behind the gym is our area for organizing bus dismissal. We have 9 buses that transport close to 500 students each day. In order to help us keep our bus loading running smoothly, all students who are walking or being picked up need to keep clear of the bus loading area. Thank you for your assistance in keeping things running safely and on time.

If your child is registered to ride a bus, but you have chosen not to use the school bus as a means of transportation for your child, please contact the office to let us know so that we can ensure our records are accurate.



Fresh from the Farm Fundraiser

Orders are due on October 4th, through the School Cash Online payment system. If you require an alternate option for ordering and payment, please contact the main office for assistance.

Thank you to all families who participated. 40% of all sales will return to the school as profit. These funds will be used to help start up a regular snack program in our school. Food items will be delivered sometime during the month of November. We will send out details as soon as they become available.

From our Eco-Team

Schools have long been sustainability champions that instill life-long environmental awareness and responsibility in students. Schools act as important examples by operating and managing their affairs while contributing positively to the environment. That's why our school will take an active role in this year's Waste Reduction Week of Canada. By joining communities, businesses, organizations, and other schools across Canada and supporting Waste Reduction Week, we hope you will take this opportunity to support a national campaign that builds awareness around issues of sustainable and responsible consumption; encourages choice for more responsible products/services; and promotes actions that reduce disposal and conserve natural resources. The ECOSchool's Team encourages you to send your child to school with a waste free lunch for the week of October 16 -22. We will be taking an audit before the contest and another one during the contest to see how well our school worked at reducing waste. Our children thank you for helping keep our planet clean.



Helping Children Learn[®]

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

October 2017

Helping your child enjoy math can improve his performance

A recent study of children in grades five through nine found that the students who enjoyed math and were proud of their ability went on to earn higher grades than kids who felt anxious, angry, bored or hopeless about math. The researchers also found that the students' past performance in math affected their emotions about it, which in turn affected their future performance.



To help your child develop a positive attitude about math:

- **Send upbeat messages.** Telling your child you hated math when you were in school won't help him feel better about it. Instead, let him know all the ways math helps you in your life.
- **Encourage him to ask his teacher** or a classmate for help if he is struggling. This may make him feel more in control of the situation. And a boost in his performance can give him confidence.
- **Give him chances to succeed with math.** Have your child help you measure a room and calculate the amount of paint needed to paint it. Ask him to graph what you spent on electricity for the last 24 months.
- **Draw attention to the amazing things** people do with math, from getting rockets into space to designing bridges.

Source: R. Pekrun and others, "Achievement Emotions and Academic Performance: Longitudinal Models of Reciprocal Effects," *Child Development*, The Society for Research in Child Development.

There are many ways to show respect

Everyone wants to feel respected. And respect—for teachers, students and learning—is an essential ingredient in the classroom. Talk to your child about the many aspects of respect. Encourage her to:

- **Show self-respect** by acting in ways that don't leave her feeling disappointed in herself.
- **Be prompt.** Arriving on time to classes and activities shows respect for people's time.
- **Listen to others politely.** This doesn't mean your child has to agree, but she should try to understand what the other person is saying without interrupting.
- **Live up to responsibilities** by doing what she says she will and being accountable for her actions.
- **Appreciate the value** of learning. Her education will help her succeed in the world.
- **Realize that there is** something she can learn from every person she meets.

Source: "Character Education," Legacy Educational Resources, niscw.com/show_respect.

Parent Quiz

Are you nurturing your child's integrity?

Your child's values and sense of right and wrong will affect her choices and her relationships with others in and out of school. Are you encouraging her to develop strong principles and be true to them? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

1. **Do you talk** about the importance of honesty? Do you thank your child for being honest even when you don't like what she says?
2. **Do you talk** with your child about family and school rules and why they are needed?
3. **Do you keep** your promises to show your child that it is important to honor commitments to others?
4. **Do you model** good sportsmanship for your child when playing games?
5. **Do you expect** your child to be responsible for her actions and hold her accountable for her choices?

How well are you doing?

More *yes* answers mean you are raising a person of character. For each no, try that idea.

"Be true to your word and your work and your friend."
—John Boyle O'Reilly

Promote math and science

Studies show that belief in the myth that "girls aren't good at math and science" affects students as early as in kindergarten.



But research says that engaging girls and boys in the same exciting math and science activities gives them equal confidence in their abilities. To encourage your child to see herself as someone who is good in math and science:

- **Explore technology.** Look for apps that let your child try coding. For ideas, visit www.commonsemmedia.org/lists/coding-apps-and-websites.
- **Play math games.** In the car, have your child add numbers on license plates.
- **Challenge her to design** an invention that will make your family's lives easier at home.

Source: K. Eckart, "Can early experiences with computers, robots increase STEM interest among young girls?" *UWToday*, University of Washington, niscw.com/stemgirls.