

62 Queensway Drive

Brantford, Ontario

N3R 4W8

519-752-2296

www.granderie.ca/schools/jameshillier/

Principal

Jeannette Marry

Office Co-ordinator

Jenn Dalby

Dates to
Remember

Meet the Teacher – Sept.12/17

P.A. Day – Sept. 15/17

School Council – Sept.19/17

School Pictures – Sept. 20/17

School Council ballots due to

Principal – Sept. 22/17

September News

Welcome back! The staff at James Hillier Public School welcome back students, families and community members to a new school year! We hope that you have had a relaxing and fun-filled summer, and are ready for the exciting challenges ahead.

A special welcome to all our new staff (Mrs. Clement and Mrs. Getty), students, and families joining the James Hillier school community. We look forward to a great year ahead for our students, staff and families of working, and learning together!

Meet the James Hillier Staff Team

Principal	Mrs. Marry
Office Co-ordinator	Mrs. Dalby
Custodians	Mr. Bishop; Mr. Ramsey
LRT	Mrs. Archibald
French	M. DeWachter & Mme. Sorensen
Library/Prep	Ms. Jones, Ms. Sabatino, Mrs. Getty
FDK A	Mrs. Fox, Miss Smits, Mrs. King
FDK B	Mrs. Coon, Mrs. Walsh, Ms. Quattrociocchi
Grade 1	Mrs. Metcalfe
Grade 1 / 2	Mrs. Dudley
Grade 2	Mrs. Sawdyk-Coverdale
Grade 3	Mrs. Eddy
Grade 3 / 4	Mrs. Pelixh
Grade 4	Mrs. Wilson
Grade 5	Mrs. Gerakopulos
Grade 5/6	Mr. Kronwald
Grade 6 / 7	Mrs. Clement
Grade 7/8	Mr. Johnson
Grade 7/8	Mr. Corrigan
Woodview	Mrs. Telfer
New Visions	Mr. Braha, Mrs. Duiker, Mrs. Zimmer, Mrs. Morrison

Reminders and Information...

Nutrition Breaks and Supervision

All Grand Erie Elementary schools are on a balanced school day. This means that your child will have two nutritional breaks during the day. Students are to remain at school during the first break but may go home during the second break. If your child has permission to leave the school during the second break, please complete the enclosed form, and return it to the school as soon as possible. Students will not be permitted to leave the school premises without **written parental consent**. Nutritional Break timings remain the same:

1st Nutritional Break – **10:40 – 11:20 AM**

2nd Nutritional Break – **1:00 – 1:40 PM**

Supervision in the morning begins at 8:50 AM. For safety reasons, please do not send your child to school prior to the 8:50 AM start time when staff begin supervision on the playground. The school day begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 3:20 PM. All students are expected to head for home shortly after the bell.

As the weather continues to be warm and sunny, students are welcome to use the bike racks at the front of the school, but are reminded to walk bicycles onto or off school property, thus avoiding riding over the lawn.

Absences and Lates:

Please call the school office to report your child's absence or late arrival. If you are aware of an upcoming appointment, please send a note in your child's agenda, or call the school office. It is important that students arrive regularly on time to school, so that they do not miss content, or learning time.

Allergies and Emergency Information:

There are a number of students at James Hillier with allergies to certain foods such as peanuts, tree nuts, seeds, dairy products, eggs etc. For some this may be a life threatening situation if they come in contact or ingest some of these foods. Peanut butter, nuts, or any products containing nuts including all peanut butter substitutes are not permitted for snacks or lunches at school. As a health and safety precaution, please remind your child to not share snacks and lunch items with friends. If in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact the school!

If there is any other emergency or medical information about your child that you would like to update or share with school personnel, please contact the office.

Reminders and Information...

Arrival and Dismissal from School

When students are arriving at school or leaving at dismissal time, the area around the school is very busy. If you are driving and dropping or picking your child up, please do not use the staff parking lot and/or the bus loading zones along St. George Street or Queensway Drive. Notably the intersection of St. George St. and Orchard Ave. is very busy and can be dangerous if drivers are not obeying the posted no stopping signs. Please use the parking lot at Queensway Baptist Church as an alternative safe parking area.

Adult Crossing Guards are located at the intersections of St. George Street and Queensway Drive and the intersection of Queensway Drive and Franklin. Please help keep our students safe by not stopping/parking in the bus zones, and by crossing with the assistance of our Crossing Guards.

Visiting During School Hours:

Parents and volunteers are always welcome at James Hillier. To maintain the safety of all our students and staff, it is imperative that all visitors to the building report to the main office. All entrance doors to the school are locked during regular school hours. Please push the buzzer on the front door to notify the office of your arrival. When dropping off lunches, or other forgotten items, please leave them at the office, and they will be delivered to your child. If you are picking up your child earlier than regular dismissal time for appointments or other events, please remain at the office or let us know ahead of time, and we will be happy to have your child wait at the office for your arrival. This limits disruptions for both staff and students.

Communication

Classroom agendas will be used in Grades 1 – 8 as a regular form of communication between home and school. Please review your child's agenda regularly for notes, homework, and important dates. If you have questions about your child specific to the classroom, please always contact the teacher first!

You should receive a monthly newsletter from your child's teacher during the first week of each month.

Similar to last year, I will be sending home monthly newsletters, using School Messenger, letters, emails, and phone calls home. School Messenger requires an up-to-date email and phone number. Please check your child's Registration Form enclosed to update this information if necessary.

This year we will be continuing to use Facebook for pictures, events, and reminders. We have also started a Twitter feed. Our Twitter handle is James Hillier School @JH_Jayhawks.

Reminders and Information...

We will no longer be using the Wordpress Blog as we have a new school website that is part of the GEDSB. It can be found at www.granderie.ca/schools/jameshillier

School Council

School Council is one of many ways to get involved at James Hillier. Council meets regularly during the school year, and helps support the school through many fundraising initiatives, events, and programs. We welcome new members, and appreciate the time and work you put in to support our students and staff. Please consider volunteering for School Council. The first meeting is on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

School Cash Online:

The school and GEDSB is moving towards "cashless schools." Please find enclosed, instructions on how to set up your family account. Many of our events, trips, fundraisers, and other purchases will be uploaded to School Cash Online for easier payment.

YMCA Before and After School Program

The YMCA is offering a before and after school program at our school. The morning component allows children to ease into their day.

The afternoon component strikes the perfect balance between structured activities and free play.

Nutritional snacks are provided by the program and are served in accordance to Canada's Food Guide.

Please note that all school doors will be locked before and after school. In order to drop off or pick up your child (both programs) please come to the Kindergarten entrance (Ms. Fox's classroom). Walk around the fenced KG yard, and knock on the door to gain entry. This entrance will be monitored and supervised by YMCA staff. There will be signage on the Kindergarten door. This process will be in place for the rest of the year.

For more information, please contact the Brantford Family YMCA at (519) 752-6568 x101.

For those families requiring financial assistance, please contact the City of Brantford directly at (519) 756-3150.

Message from the Principal

As I begin my second year as Principal at James Hillier Public School, I reflect back on the previous school year. Each year brings positive changes. This year we have a new school website that will provide up-to-date information of events and news to our community. Over the Labour Day weekend, our new school sign was installed...very exciting! Shortly, we will be beginning our work in redeveloping the library into a Library Learning Common for students. Over the year there will be changes to how our school looks and functions. As always, change can be exciting, but also anxiety producing.

The start of the school year can be an exciting time, but also one of apprehension. Each year, staff put in a great deal of time, effort and consideration into student placements. Based on enrollment and grade organization, teachers attempt to balance students academically and socially. At times, even with our best efforts, it becomes impossible to place students in straight grades, with their preferred friends or favourite teacher. Sometimes, due to changes to enrollment or grades, we have to re-organize classes and students after the school year has started. This can be a difficult situation for our students, staff and parents. You can help your child at home, to understand that it takes time to adjust and transition successfully to a new grade, teacher, peer group, routines, expectations, and academic challenges.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to your child's education, and success as we begin a new year together!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marry

"Be the change you wish to see in the world! "

Mahatma Gandhi

