

ÉCOLE CONFÉDÉRATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



novembre—November 2016

54 Ewing Drive
Brantford, Ontario

N3R 5H8

519-751-2891

granderie.ca/confederation

Principal

Andrea Smith

Vice Principal

Nancy Norton

Office Coordinators

Michele Edmondson

Sandy Pottruff

Dear Confédération Families;

October proved to be a very busy month for our students. We participated in many sporting events (and enjoyed several victories!),

November brings us to the midway point in term 1 of our school year. With that comes our progress report cards for students in Grades JK-8. The progress report card is designed to show a student's development of the learning skills and work habits during the fall of the school year, as well as a student's general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations in all subjects. Progress reports will be sent home on November 15th. Parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled for Thursday, November 17th in the evening and Friday, November 18th in the morning. Scheduled appointment times will be sent home with the report card. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress further with their teacher. We hope that you will be able to attend. If you are not available to attend, please contact your child's teacher to make alternate arrangements. Kindergarten conferences will be held separately in November. Families will receive detailed information about the Kindergarten conference process.

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith
Principal

Mme N. Norton
Vice-Principal



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Nov. 2-Take your kid to work day (Gr. 9 students visiting)

Nov. 4-Random Act of Kindness Day

Nov. 8—Deadline for deposit and optional insurance purchase for Gr. 7 & 8 trip

Nov. 11-Remembrance Day, Gr. 5-8 will be going to the Cenotaph for a Remembrance Day service

Nov. 14-Immunizations for Gr. 7 and 8 students

Nov. 15-Progress Reports sent home to all grades, Opera presentation for Gr. 4-8, Magazine Fundraiser ends

Nov. 16 Book Fair Sales (9:00-4:00)

Nov. 17-Book Fair Sales (9:00-7:30), Progress Report Conferences (pm)

Nov. 18-PD Day for students, Book Fair Sales (am), Progress Report Conference (am)

Nov. 22-Railway safety presentation for Gr. 4-8

Nov. 23-Photo Retake Day

Nov. 25-Primary assembly (Put First Things First), Accessibility Awareness Day

Nov. 30-Jr/Int. assembly (Put First Things First)

Staffing Changes

We have seen many changes to our clerical staff recently. We welcome Mme Vandeven to our main office. Mme Vandeven has replaced Mme Pottruff, who has moved into a position at Branlyn School. Mme Johnson will be leaving as Mme Edmondson returns to our main office. Mme Johnson has enjoyed her time working at Confederation and will be returning to retirement. We wish our departing staff all the best and extend a warm welcome to our new and returning personnel.

Monthly Assemblies

During the month of November, we will be encouraging students to "Put First Things First". Congratulations to all students who were recognized at the end of October for their efforts to "Start with the end in mind".

Soccer Field Re-seeding

Our facilities services department has implemented a re-seeding program for our soccer field. In order to allow the area a chance to become established, it will be necessary to close the area for a period of time. Students will be able to continue to enjoy soccer on the grassed area behind the Gr. 4 portable classrooms. Mini nets will be available for students to use. We appreciate your patience during this time and look forward to a full, grassy field in the spring.

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**



Sports Updates



Félicitations to all of our cross country runners who did a fantastic job at the meet in October. Our team was able to secure a first place standing for our Midget/ Novice Girls team and our Pewee/Junior/Senior Boys. Thanks to our coaches Mme V. Gasparotto, Mme Hexamer, Mme Dungey, Mme McEwen and M. Snell.



Congratulations to our Jr. and Intermediate soccer teams for winning the Brant region tournaments and representing well at the CAGE tournament. Bien joué tout le monde! Thanks to coaches Mme Hladysz, Mme Manfredi, Mme Guillemette and to league convenor, Mme S. Gasparotto.

Badminton practices have started on Wednesdays after school. For additional information, contact our coach, M. Mollon.

Coin de l'immersion/Immersion Corner

Learning in and Early Immersion Program:

Just as reading in one's mother tongue depends on the ability to understand and to use that language orally, so must immersion students first develop a basic knowledge of French. In the beginning years, there is a strong emphasis on developing oral language skills (understanding of oral French, which will lead to production or speaking some French). As students develop and strengthen their oral language skills, they will be able to apply these to reading and writing. Even if you do not speak, read, or write French, you can still support your child at home. Here are some basic phonics comparisons between English and French:

- most consonants have the same sound in English and French
- vowel sounds differ significantly between English and French
- h is always silent in French
- an s at the end of a plural word in French is silent
- qu sounds like K (and not kw as in English)
- th is pronounced t
- ch is pronounced like English sh
- l is pronounced like long e in English (as in bee)
- y sounds like yes, even at the end of a word
- eau and au have the same long o sound
- accents change the sounds of vowels

As you support your child in developing their abilities as a reader, you might consider talking about the similarities and differences in the languages. The ability to identify similarities and differences between sounds and the sequence of sounds within a word is an important skill in learning to read and write.

(Adapted from "Yes, you can help? Information and Inspiration for French Immersion Parents, Alberta Learning).

Student Pick-Up and Drop Off



Our school parking lot provides for a “Kiss and Drop” area for families to use in the mornings. **This area is a no-parking zone.** Caregivers may stop in this zone long enough to drop off students and then continue on out of the parking lot. The on-site parking at the school is reserved for staff parking only. Areas where signage is posted indicating a Fire Route must be kept clear at all times. Parking in these areas can result in a fine.

Student Pick –Up and End of Day Routines

All students who walk or are being picked up will now be dismissed out the exit doors by the gym. If caregivers wish to wait for students, please wait by the bicycle racks along the side of the school. **Aside from the 2 permit parking spots for vehicles with an accessibility sticker, there is no parking on site for student pick up.** If you wish to park and walk your child to the drop off zone, street parking is available on Coronation and Stodola Drives, in front of the school.

We have 9 large buses to transport our students. Dismissal from school at the end of the instructional day is staggered to allow for a safe exit to the buses for all children. Please note that Junior and Senior Kindergarten students who are being picked up will be at the caregiver pick up area (gym doors by the exterior bicycle racks) by 3:20 daily. Parents of Kindergarten students may pick up their children at that time. It is expected that all students will be picked up by 3:30 p.m. daily unless they are participating in a teacher supervised extra curricular activity.

Please note that dismissal time is very busy for students. It is important for families to establish a clear routine with children and the classroom teacher. If there is a change in routine, a note from the parent/guardian will be expected by the teacher **each and every time**. Families picking up children at the end of the day, should meet their child at the Student Pick-up Area (gym doors by the exterior bicycle racks). Caregivers can wait on the sidewalk there. For safety reasons, please keep the sidewalk alongside the buses clear for bus loading, refrain from leaning against buses while waiting, and ensure that little ones who are waiting with you are supervised and well away from parked buses. Thank you for helping us ensure safety for all.

Changes to Transportation

If you are not using transportation services for an extended period of time (i.e. more than a month), parents are requested to contact the school, Sharp Bus Lines and GEDSB transportation office and have your child taken off the bus list.

GEDSB transportation: 519-751-7532

Sharp Bus Lines: 519-751-3434

Parents are advised to contact Sharp Bus Lines and/or GEDSB Transportation Department for all after hours issues and any concerns with buses and transportation schedules and routes.

Remembrance Day

For the last 6 years, we have posted remembrances of your family member(s) for Remembrance Day. The students, staff and families have enjoyed finding the pictures in the halls and talking about the contribution that the member of their family made or are still making in the Armed Forces. The picture display has been an important part of our Remembrance Day.



This year, we would like to send the pictures back to you so that we can renew our Remembrance Day display in the new school. Some of the pictures are special to families that are no longer here because of moving or graduations. Some of the students whose families contributed remembrances are no longer in kindergarten, but in a junior grade and their handwriting and signatures have changed significantly. It is time to renew.

The pictures are special to your family and will be sent home respectfully and with thanks for the connections that they helped to forge at a time of Remembrance.



Making Time for Math



School council meetings are open for all to attend. We have established our 15 voting members, but welcome all who are interested in volunteering and are willing to contribute. School Council has been running a lottery calendar for several years, with all proceeds earmarked

for the purchase of playground equipment for our school. We are working towards identifying the specific pieces of equipment and planning with the facilities services department for future installation. We hope to be able to share our final plans with families later this year. We will continue to organize a variety of fundraising events throughout the year to help bring us to the required funds to install our playground. The next fundraiser will be magazine sales. Families can purchase and renew magazine subscriptions through an online campaign. Proceeds will go towards our playground fund, as well as subsidizing the costs of events and activities that enhance learning for our students. More details on our website. If you prefer not to participate in fundraising, donations to our fundraising initiatives are always appreciated. A receipt for income tax purposes can be arranged. Please contact the main office for details.

Festival Du livre/French Book Fair

The Scholastic French Festival du Livre is coming to our school! What better way to promote reading to our students than by supporting this important literacy event. Did you know that for every \$10 you spend at the Book Fair up-to \$6 comes directly back to our school?

Dates:

Tues., Nov. 15: Preview Day for students (class visits)

9:10am-3:30pm

Wed., Nov. 16: Sales 9:10am-4pm

Thurs., Nov. 17: Sales 9:10am-7:30pm

Fri., Nov. 18: Sales 9:10am-12pm

We look forward to seeing you during our Pirate themed Festival du Livre and thank you in advance for your support.

Don't forget to mark the Festival du Livre dates on your calendar! **Dates: Wed. Nov. 16-Fri. Nov. 18.**

Location: École Confédération
Library



As we look at our school data and plan for school improvement, we will continue to have an increased focus on mathematics learning. There are many ways you can support your child as partners in their development of understanding in mathematics:



***Be Positive:**

Choose your words carefully. When adults say they aren't good at math-sometimes to make children feel better-they may be giving children permission to stop learning.

*Avoid math anxiety:

Math anxiety (unproductive tension and stress) is real and occurs in children as well as adults. Pressure from timed tests and the risk of failure are minor sources of math anxiety. Try not to over-react when your child makes a mistake. Making mistakes is an important part of learning!

*Learn from mistakes:

Homework time can be a more positive experience if you help your children learn from mistakes; praise their efforts, ask them to explain their answer, ask them to think about why the mistake happened, and encourage them to try again.

*Help set the tone:

Be relaxed and engaged as your child does math homework. You are not expected to be an expert, but you can offer support and ask questions: "How did you do that?"; "How do you know if you are right or wrong?"; and "Would you teach me how to do another question like this one?"

***Be patient and build confidence:**

If your child becomes frustrated, stop. Remind them of things that they have already learned how to do successfully, such as riding a bicycle or playing a musical instrument.

(Adapted from CODE-Council of Ontario Directors of Education)

Lost and Found

Our lost and found bin is over-flowing! Please encourage your child to look for any lost items in the lost and found. The bin is located in the alcove outside of the gym. When you are in for the Progress Report Conferences, please take a moment to check the lost and found for any missing items. Any items remaining in the lost and found at the end of November will be donated to charity.

School Safety Procedures

We have completed our mandatory 2 fire drills this fall. Staff and students did an excellent job of adapting to our new routines and procedures-bien fait! We will be conducting a lock down drill during the month of November.

A Note From Our Public Health Nurse...

STOP Germs in Their Tracks – Wash your Hands!

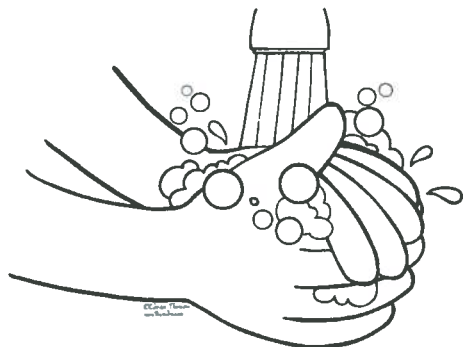
If you have ever been sick with the cold or flu, blame a Germ! You cannot see germs but they can make you sick! The single most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and spreading germs to others is to wash your hands. Germs can live on surfaces like desks and keyboards for up to several days. By washing your hands properly, you are reducing the spread of germs as well as being a positive role model for your children.

Stop germs in their tracks by following some of these tips:

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 15 seconds (about the length of time it takes you to sing the “Happy Birthday” song).
- Wash your hands before and after you eat, when you use the bathroom and after blowing your nose/using a tissue.
- Keep your hands away from your nose, eyes and mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sneeze into your elbow
- Stay at home if you are sick

Get your flu shot – Book appointments with your doctor, or contact the Brant County Health Unit by visiting www.bchu.org or calling 519-753-4937 ext. 446. Anyone five years and older can also get their flu shot at a participating pharmacy.

Adapted from Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit



Building Healthy Relationships

Help Your Children
Develop Empathy and
Respect:

Healthy relationships are based on good communication. This involves not only language but also understanding, respecting, and caring about how another

person may be feeling. Help children understand their own feelings. Talk about how they feel when someone says hurtful things. Let them know you understand.

Children also need help to understand the feelings of others. Encourage them to watch for facial expressions and body language and to listen and respect the feelings and views of other people. Discuss their perceptions. Encourage them to help those who may not feel included and to put themselves in the shoes of others who may be affected by their actions. This can help our children build understanding and is an important foundation for social responsibility.

Accepting Mistakes as Learning Opportunities:

We learn from making mistakes. Ask your children what can be learned from a mistake that has been made. Try to focus on the learning—not the mistake. Learning from mistakes helps us to improve ourselves and our relationships. Try to help your child understand why the mistake happened and how it could be avoided in the future.

Apologies are important for young children and youth to learn. Helping young people focus on the apology can keep them from continuing to justify their mistake. Children can learn about heartfelt apologies and practice at home. Parents are powerful role models for children and youth



(CODE-Council of Directors of Education)



Inclement Weather and Transportation

Winter is just around the corner. In the event of inclement weather, there is the potential for transportation delays or cancellations and school closures.



BUS # AND ZONE

503 = Paris - ZONE 3 and 4
504 = St George - ZONE 3 and 4
505 = Ancaster, Hwy 2/53 - ZONE 3 and 4
507 = BRANTFORD ONLY - Zone 4
509 = BRANTFORD ONLY - Zone 4
510 = Lynden Rd - ZONE 3 and 4
519 = BRANTFORD ONLY – ZONE 4
528 = BRANTFORD ONLY – ZONE 4
543 = BRANTFORD ONLY – ZONE 4

If transportation is cancelled for schools in Zone 3 AND 4, École Confédération will be CLOSED. WE ARE ZONE 4 (CITY OF BRANTFORD) AND ZONE 3 (FOR BRANT COUNTY STUDENTS). A reminder to all parents that École Confédération is in Zone 4 and Zone 3 for those living in Brant County for all bus cancellations and school closures. BUSES 503, 504, 505, AND 510 COME FROM ZONE 3 BEFORE PICKING STUDENTS UP IN ZONE 4 FOR CONFÉDÉRATION - IF ZONE 3 IS CANCELLED THERE WILL BE NO PICK UP FOR STUDENTS IN BRANTFORD ON THOSE BUSES. BUS 507, 509, 519, 528 AND 543 ARE BRANTFORD BUSES ONLY AND WILL NOT PICK STUDENTS UP IF CANCELLED FOR ZONE 4.

Please listen to Radio Station CKPC (1380 AM and 92.1) or CHCH TV.

To see if buses are cancelled due to bad weather, or fog delay, you can go directly to the transportation website from the school website or the GEDSB website (under the parents tab). Click on the "home" tab and then the "transportation" tab, and look for zone 3 & 4. Please also check the bus delay icon to see if there are any bus cancellations listed there. You will need to know your child's bus route number to see if their route has been cancelled.

Visit: www.stsbhn.ca
click cancellations – closures and Bus Delay icons.

Sign up for email notification from the transportation department at www.stsbhn.ca

Click on the BUS DELAY icon then hit the SUBSCRIPTION icon and sign up for email notification. This must be done every year. Updates can also be received by following @STSBHN on Twitter.

In the event of a mid-day closure, the school telephone lines will be needed to work through our Emergency Phone Fan-Out to contact parents. Parents should note that it is very rare that the school will be closed half way through an instructional day.

On days of inclement weather, the staff of STSBHN and the bus companies, who provide service to our area, are actively reviewing current road conditions and future weather patterns in order to make a determination on delayed or cancelled transportation services. Information is collected from a number of sources and a decision is made and posted no later than 6:30 a.m.

As the decision to run, delay or cancel transportation is made in advance of services actually being provided, there may be some instances where variability exists in what was forecast versus what actually occurs. STSBHN and its member school boards want to provide options for the parents and students of our area and so, when it appears safe to do so, transportation services will be permitted to continue as usual. If, on an inclement weather day you feel that your child(ren) would be better off not taking the bus and either being transported into school by yourself or staying home altogether as a result of the road conditions at or near your home, STSBHN and the boards do understand and respect that this decision ultimately rests with you.

Picture Retake Day

Picture retake day will be November 23. Parents who want their child's picture to be retaken should return the order form and proofs that were sent home following the original photo day.

