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granderie.ca/confederation

Principal

Andrea Smith

Vice Principal

Israël Ségura-Rômero

Office Coordinators

Angela Vandeven

Tracy Czeranko

(Michele Edmondson on leave)

septembre/September 2018

Bonne rentrée! - Welcome Back!



Dear Confédération Families;

Bonne rentrée and welcome to the 2018/2019 school year! We hope that everyone had a restful and relaxing summer, and that you are ready for another year of great adventures in learning. This year, French Immersion programs across Grand Erie will be implementing some program changes. We will be delivering our mathematics program in English for all students in grades 1-8. In addition, our grade 1 students will also have a daily period of English language instruction. We look forward to supporting our students with these changes and watching them grow as dual language learners.

We hope that you will be able to join us for Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 14 from 6:00-7:30 pm to see your child's classroom and meet his/her teacher. School Council has organized a BBQ for families to purchase burgers, hot dogs, drinks and chips..

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith
Principal

Israël Ségura-Rômero
Vice-Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 4– Oct. 9—Fresh From the Farm Fundraiser

Sept.13-: - JK/SK Bus Orientation
 -School Council Nominations due to principal by 3:30 pm
 -Return Current Info, Accident Declaration, Internet Permission
 -Terry Fox Run-Last Block: bring a toonie/\$2 donation
 -Meet the Teacher Night, 6:00-7:30 pm

Sept. 14 – PA DAY – No school

Sept. 26– Parent Council Meeting and Elections, 6:00, Library

Oct. 3-PA DAY—No school

Oct. 4 - Gr. 7 & 8 immunizations

Oct. 17 & 18 – Picture days : Oct. 17 for Grades JK-2

Oct. 18 for Grades 3-8

September Newsletter Attachments

There are many important documents that come home at the beginning of each school year. Attached you will find the following documents, which you may keep for reference and information:

1. Student Accident Insurance. Please see the pamphlet attached to this newsletter for an application to have student accident insurance for your child. This insurance is highly recommended for dental accidents in particular. **These are sent directly to the insurance company. They do not get returned to the school.**
2. 2017-2018 School Year calendar
3. Code of Conduct for Bus Students
4. School Council Nomination Form (Due to the school by Sept. 13 @3:30 if you are interested in joining School Council))
5. School Handbook.

Additional documents will be sent home that **must be filled out, signed, and returned to the school:**



1. Current Information Sheets
2. Student Accident Declaration (required to attend trips)
3. Internet Use Permission Forms
4. Early Dismissal Form

These sheets will be sent home with each student. They are sent home annually to update the student information files for all students. It is vital that this information be updated each year to ensure emergency contact with parents in the event of an injury or problem. *Please look for these and return them to the school **before September 15h.** Your assistance is greatly appreciated.*

Please visit our website for updates and information at:

granderie.ca/confederation

All newsletters, office forms, and school information will be found on the website. Remember to check the website regularly for updated information from the school and your child's teacher. After September, all news will be delivered electronically, through the REMIND app. Paper copies of the newsletter will be available upon request only (notify your child's teacher). Be sure to check the widgets along the bottom of the site for our Twitter feed (#confedcourage)

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.



School Attendance

School attendance for all students is tracked for absences and late arrivals. A Grand Erie District School Board attendance counselor works with our school to track student attendance. A letter is sent to individual parents when children have accumulated a significant number of absences and/or lates. Absences of 15 consecutive days can result in the removal of the student from the school's registration. In all other cases of attendance concerns, a notice is sent to parents from the school indicating the total number of lates and absences for a child prior to involvement with the Attendance Counsellor. Please note that if you are planning a family trip or have a reason to take your child out of school for 3 consecutive days or more, you are required to complete a "Request for Absence from School" form from the office (and signed by the principal) prior to the absence. This is a GEDSB policy. This form can also be found on the school website.

Deliveries for Students

If you are delivering something for a student to the school office **please put your child's name & teacher's name on it.** Our clerical staff will contact the classroom and ensure that the items are delivered to your child. Please remind your child that you will be dropping items off so that they expect the delivery.

Harassment Statement

The Grand Erie District School Board has a zero tolerance policy toward all forms of harassment. The Board is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free of harassment, which supports productivity and the personal goals of dignity and self-esteem of every individual. The Board expects all students, staff and visitors to behave in a respectful, courteous and appropriate manner at all times. The Board will respond to all forms of unacceptable behaviour in a manner consistent with the Board Policy / Procedure on Harassment. To view the policy, please visit the Board's website at <http://www.granderie.ca> and select the drop down menu titled Board.

School Hours at École Confédération

All elementary schools in The Grand Erie District School Board operate on a Balanced Day Schedule. The school day is organized in to three instructional blocks and two 40 minute nutritional breaks.

<u>Hours of Instruction</u>	<u>Nutrition/Fitness Breaks</u>
9:10 – 11:10	11:10- 11:50
11:50 – 1:30	1:30-2:10
2:10 - 3:30	
<u>Office Hours</u> 8:15 - 4:00	

Kindergarten to Gr. 3 students will go outside for the first 20 minutes and then come in to eat. Gr. 4-8 students will eat during the first 20 minutes and then go outside.

The school playground is supervised from 8:50 a.m.-3:45 p.m. daily. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:50 a.m. . Students who walk or who are picked up need to depart at the 3:30 bell.

All students must remain on school property during the day unless they have parent permission. Students are asked to remain on school property for the first nutrition break (11:10-11:50). Those who have permission to leave the property for lunch will do so on the second nutrition break (1:30-2:10).

We expect that all students will display good manners and be respectful of each other during the Nutrition/Fitness breaks. Students must follow lunchroom routines under the supervision of school staff.

School Visitors/Volunteers

All parents and visitors must enter at the school through the front door only. Please do not enter or go directly to classrooms or portables. You are requested to sign in at the office each time that you enter and leave the school building. All volunteers must have a valid police check (good for 2 years).

In addition (all volunteers must review and initial the volunteer checklist each year, and have completed accessibility training through the GEDSB website (1 time completion).

The required forms are available on our website. Contact the office for the appropriate forms if you need to apply for a new police check.



Student Agendas

Student agendas are an important tool for parent-teacher communication. They are an important part of the learning skills students use to assist with organization. Each student in Grades 1-5 and Gr. 7-8 will be provided with a student agenda. We ask for a \$5.00 donation to help off set the cost of this important learning tool. Donations are accepted through the school cash online website.

Peanut/Nut Aware School



A few reminders about food policies at École Confédération:

- * This is a peanut/nut aware school. Please do not send peanut based products, peanuts, or any nut/soy products that may contain any of these items to the school. The safety of other children depends on this.
- * Peanut butter substitutes are not allowed in elementary schools in GEDSB.
- * Food is not permitted on the school playground at recess and at lunch. Students are permitted the opportunity to eat their snacks and lunches prior to going outside or immediately following the morning and afternoon recess periods.

News for Parents-Sign Up for Remind

For on-going reminders and updates, sign up for École Confédération's **REMIND** account. If you were already signed up last year, you will continue to receive updates-no need to sign up again!

- 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 private. We don't see your contact info and you don't see ours. Cancel at any time.



School Council News

School Council Nominations due to principal by

3:30 PM on Sept. 13, 2018

Elections on Sept. 26, 6:00pm, library

The School Council is the voice of the parents to the school administration. We act in an advisory capacity to the principal and school administration as we all work towards improving the quality of the school experience for our children.

Throughout the year School Council ran the hot lunch program and other fundraising activities.

Meetings are usually held the third Wednesday of every month at the school at 6pm. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

On September 26th, we will be holding our nominations and election of the Council and we invite any interested parents to join us. This is open to all parents of students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. Nomination forms are attached to this newsletter.

Family/Student Handbook

A copy of the École Confédération handbook is included in the front of each student agenda (gr. 1-8). An electronic copy is available on the school website. All relevant information regarding school routines, transportation, expectations of students, etc., is provided in this document.

Fire Drills and School Lock Down

In accordance with the Fire Department and GEDSB Policy on School Lock Down, your children will be involved in 3 Fire Drills in the Fall and Spring months and Lock Down practices in the Fall and Spring.

A School Lock Down requires than an announcement be made to staff to secure our students in their classrooms behind locked classroom door.

Families should not be surprised if you child arrives home from school describing their experience in this process to you. A notification on the date of practice will be sent via the REMIND app.



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.

School Security



All parents and school visitors are reminded that it is the policy of The Grand Erie District School Board that all parents and visitors enter the school through the front door and sign in and report their presence in the school or on school property to the office staff at all times.

We have security cameras at our school entrance, and at various points around the perimeter of the school. All school entrances from the playground and parking lot are locked at all times. These measures are put in place in all schools to provide a safe learning environment for all children.

Please note that all portable classrooms and school staff have swipe card access to the school at any time throughout the school day.

Student Pick-Up and Drop Off

Please note that students are welcome to arrive at school any time after 8:50 a.m. when a teacher will be on duty to supervise. Children who arrive prior to 8:50 a.m. will not be supervised on school property, and should not arrive prior to this time.

Kindergarten Drop Off (am from 8:50-9:10)

All Kindergarten students can be dropped off at the far end of the school, opposite to the parking lot, each morning. Families will need to park on the side streets adjacent to the school and walk students to this area. This area is fenced in and will be supervised by members of our kindergarten educator teams. Pick up at the end of the day will continue to begin at 3:20 at the exit doors located outside the gym (same location as last year).

Parking

There will be no parking or vehicles allowed on site from 8:45-9:15 daily (morning drop off) and from 3:15-3:45 daily (afternoon pick up). The only exception to this rule would be for those with accessible passes who need to access the 2 designated spots at the front end of the parking lot. If your family has a need to access on site with a vehicle during the prohibited times, but does not have an accessible pass, please contact the main office to discuss possible arrangements. Parking will be available on the streets adjacent to the school. Please obey the posted parking regulations when parking on the street. Students may cross at the crossing guard in front of the school and walk up the sidewalk to the playground.

Adults picking students up at the end of the day are welcome to walk and wait along the sidewalk adjacent to the parking lots. Students being picked up and walking will exit out the gym doors at the side of the school. This area is supervised by staff.

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.

Bus/Dismissal Procedures

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. JK/SK children are paired with a 'Bus Buddy', a student who rides the same bus and is an older student. The older student will escort the children from their Kindergarten classroom to the bus each day at dismissal and to the Kindergarten play area each day upon arrival at school. There is a teacher on duty to supervise the buses at the beginning and end of the school day.

Students who are picked up or walk will be dismissed from the gym doors at the parking lot side of the school, not through the front doors, at the end of the day. Please note that Junior and Senior Kindergarten students who are being picked up will be in this area by 3:20 daily (with teacher supervision). Families 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.

All parents of bused students must provide the school, the Board Transportation Office, and Sharp Bus line with accurate and up to date information. This is essential for bus drivers to know which bus the children are to take to and from school and the correct pick-up and drop-off points.

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

Families 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.





Bus Zones

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 (Brant County students).

- Information on Student Transportation Services can be found at: <http://www.stsbhn.ca/>
- For transportation delays, cancellations or school closures, visit: www.transinfobhn.ca/Cancellations
- Closure information will also be shared with local media (i.e. radio, television)
- If there are school or board facility closures, Grand Erie will post a notification by 6:30 a.m. on the Board's website: www.granderie.ca
- Information will also be posted on Grand Erie's Twitter (@GEDSB) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/GEDSB) accounts

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.



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, TF001 Transportation Form must be filled out and returned to school. To access the forms:

1. Click on the transportation link on the Confederation or GEDSB website.
2. Go to www.stsbhn.ca and click on the "forms" link

If you make a change to your child's bus route at any time you must fill out the Transportation form TF001, The TF001 Form must be returned to the school for processing. Do not send it directly to transportation. Processing these requests can take time. Once the form has been submitted, it could take a few days for the request to be approved. Please communicate with the main office to confirm the date that the change will begin.

If your child is not taking the bus on a particular day: You are required to let the teacher know in writing by sending a note. Please include the bus number. 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 busing and the bus driver know that your child will not be taking the bus home.

Contact Dave Imre in the transportation department for any questions: 519-751-7532, ext. 282203 or contact the bus company directly at Sharp Bus lines 519-751-3434.



Playground Equipment Rules

The Ontario Physical and Health Educators' Association (OPHEA) provides safety guidelines for all physical activities at school. Playground equipment used during the school day is included in these guidelines. Students in Gr. 1-8 will be allowed to play on the equipment at recess following a schedule. A staff member will be on duty to supervise play. Kindergarten classes will only use the equipment during their classroom outdoor instruction time, supervised by their educator team.

We will review the rules for playing safely on the equipment with students throughout the year. We encourage families to remind their children of the rules we are required to follow to play safely on the equipment:

General Rules and Expectations

Students must:

- Use playground structure only when the teacher is present.
- Listen to and follow instructions from the teacher.
- Wear appropriate shoes that are secured/tied (no sandals or flip flops).
- Tie back long hair.
- Travel safely when near the playground structure— i. e. they must walk, not run when on the structure.
- Take turns.
- Keep their hands to themselves at all times.
- Keep their feet on the structure. Climbing or sitting on the railings is not permitted.

Students must not:

- Wear garments with loose drawstrings, bicycle helmets or backpacks.
- Jump from unsafe heights (i.e. any height higher than their chest).
- Eat while on the playground structure.
- Play tag games near or on the structure.

Specific Activities Rules and Expectations

Climbing Structure - Steps:

- Walk (not run) and hold the hand rails.

Climbing Structure - Platform:

- Walk at all times.
- No jumping from the platform to the ground. Use the steps, slides or ladders.
- Keep your feet on platform at all times. Do not attempt to climb onto the railings.

Slide:

- Wait your turn. Keep your hands to yourself. No pushing or shoving at the top of the slide.
- No sliding headfirst, lying down or backwards.
- Check that no one is at the bottom of the slide before sliding down.
- Once at the bottom of the slide move away.
- No walking/running up or down the slide bed.



Staff List 2018-2019

Kindergarten:

Mme Hudson & Mme Himburg (formerly Veber)
Mme Whitbread & Mme Morel
Mme McKay (covering Mme Simich's leave) & Mme Inkindi
Mme Marcantonio & Mme Proctor
Mme Milbin & Mme Gagnon

Gr. 1:

Mme Giroux
Mme Desjardins
Mme McEwen

Gr. 1/2:

Mme Bailey

Gr. 2:

Mme V. Gasparotto
Mme St. Onge
Mme Boshell

Grade 3:

Mme Giancola
Mme Senecal
Mme Monaghan (formerly Hladysch)

Gr. 5:

Mme Mullings
Mme Pickell
Mme Pettigrew (am) & Mme
Raithby (pm)

Gr. 2/3:

Mme Bruneau

Gr. 4:

Mme Croucher
Mme Beccari
Mme Banting

Gr. 6:

Mme Gasparotto
M. Snell

Gr. 7:

M. Mollon

Gr. 8:

Mme Hennessey

Prep. Teachers:

Mme Beecraft (Early Years and Primary Music)
Mme Morin (Primary Science, Health)
Mme Mussolum (Early Years, LLI, Librarian)
Mme Esposto (Jr. Science, Health)
Mme Wiebe (J/I Social Studies, Science, Hist., Geo.)
Mme Pettigrew (J/I Music)

Learning Resource Teacher:

Mme Hexamer

EA:

Mme Potts
Mme Antonowicz

Clerical Staff:

Mme Czeranko (covering Mme Edmondson's leave)
Mme Vandeven

Administration:

Mme Smith, Principal
M. Ségura-Rômero, Vice-Principal

Custodians:

M. Gallant (daytime)
Mme Brennan (evening)

Join us for Meet the Teacher Night

Thursday, September 13 from 6:00-7:30

BBQ by Strodes available for purchase

Visit your child's classroom and meet the teachers and staff.

Thank you to our School Council for organizing the food for this event.



*Parent-teacher interviews will not be available during this time. To discuss your child's progress with his or her teacher, please contact the teacher to make arrangements.