



JAMES HILLIER PUBLIC SCHOOL



62 Queensway Drive
Brantford, Ontario
N3R 4W8

519-752-2296

granderie.ca/jameshillier/

Principal

Cam MacDonald

Office Coordinator

Jennifer Dalby

Bell Times

9:00 a.m. – School Starts

1st Nutrition Break: 11:00-11:40

2nd Nutrition Break 1:20-2:00

Dismissal: 3:20 p.m.

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Message from the Principal

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December is here, and the break is only three weeks away! As we approach the end of the year, we should look back with pride at what our students and staff have accomplished in a mere 3 months. Students have been working hard on both academics and extracurricular activities. We have some great athletes as well as talented artists. I would like to thank the staff and parents for all you do to support our kids.

The weeks leading to the holidays will be quite busy with many special events occurring in many classrooms. Volleyball teams have been practicing hard for their competitions. We are really looking forward to our Holiday Concert during the last week of school before the break. Practising is already underway, and it promises to be an epic performance!

The holiday season, with its many traditions, is certainly an important time to reflect. The relationships we have in our lives are so important and it should be a priority to nurture them, especially at this time of year. With those close to us, we should celebrate unique strengths and talents while offering kind support whenever it is needed. It's my sense that this certainly takes place at our great school.

Have a great December, a fantastic holiday and a happy new year!

Cam MacDonald
Principal



Check out our newly launched school
website!

www.granderie.ca/jhi

Morning Drop-off

As we continue to build a strong and supportive school community, we want to thank you for helping our students start each day positively and confidently. Now that we are four months into the school year, our students have become familiar with the morning routines and procedures for entering the building.

In the spirit of fostering growing independence, we kindly ask that all parents and guardians say goodbye to their children before stepping onto school property each morning. To support this transition, we have teachers on supervision duty at both the primary and junior doors to welcome students and ensure they enter safely.

Encouraging children to walk independently into school helps them build confidence, responsibility, and readiness for the day ahead. We have notice that prolonged goodbyes, while well-intentioned, can sometimes have a negative impact- both on the child who may find it harder to separate and on others who observe the interaction. Our goal is to begin each day on a positive note for all students.

The kindergarten drop-off for Mrs. Coon's and Mrs. Fox's class will remain the same. We encourage and would like to see the independent drop off in our grades 1 through 8.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to nurture independence and create a smooth, supportive start to every school morning. If you have a unique situation that you would like to discuss, please reach out to your child's teacher and we will work as a team to support.

Parking Courtesy Reminder

We kindly ask all families to be mindful of our neighbors during drop-off and pick-up times. Please avoid blocking driveways when parking near the school. Your cooperation helps keep traffic flowing smoothly and maintains positive relationships within our community.

Thank you for supporting a safe and respectful environment for everyone!

Holiday Concert

Wednesday December 17th is our Winter Concert

Show times are:

9:30 am

2:10 pm

6:30 pm

The concert is one hour long. (each class will be performing a song in grade order after the choir songs)

Doors open for the evening show at 6:00 pm. Parents, stay with your child until 6:15 and then may drop them off at their classroom.

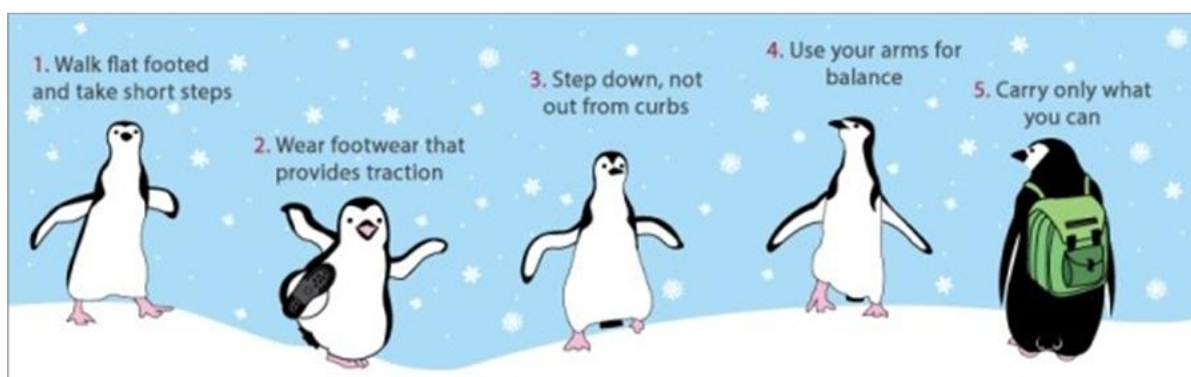
More information about tickets will be shared shortly to ensure fair distribution of tickets as the capacity of the gym is very limited. We will also be communicating an opportunity for families who only have kindergarten students in the school.

Winter Weather Safety

Winter is here, and with it comes the chance of slips and falls. Here are some tips and reminders to help keep you and your family safe during the coming months.

Tips:

- Use the designated walkways that are cleared of snow and well-salted.
- Wear proper footwear that has a good tread but also a softer tread for added grip.
- Walk like a penguin with your arms out and with shorter steps to maintain better balance.



School zone safety

The rush of cars, buses, and children arriving at school can create many dangers. Help keep kids safe on the way to and from school.

Drivers:

- Slow down and be ready to stop for school buses and pedestrians
- Respect the crossing guard's instructions
- Be aware of children potentially running in front or behind buses or other obstructions (snowbanks)
- Make sure your child gets out from the passenger side of your vehicle
- Park away from the school and walk your child onto school property

Teach your children to:

- Stop, look, listen, and make eye contact with drivers before crossing
- Walk only on the sidewalk and follow the crossing guard's instructions
- Do not use cell phones or earphones when walking

For more information, visit [CAA School Safety Patrol](#).

Book Fair

We are thrilled to share that our recent book fair was a tremendous success! Thank you to all the families who participated and helped support our library, literacy initiatives, and the love of reading within our James Hillier community.

Thanks to your enthusiasm and generosity, we were able to purchase **over 100 new books** for our library shelves. We also have additional funds remaining in our Scholastic account, which will allow us to continue adding valuable resources throughout the year.

A special congratulations goes out to **Ava in Mr. Kronwald's class** for winning the Family Door Prize event. Both Ava and Mr. Kronwald's class received **\$25 in books**. Well done!

This wonderful outcome would not have been possible without the support of our James Hillier families. We are truly grateful for your involvement and continued commitment to fostering a strong reading culture at our school.

Thank you once again for making this year's book fair such a meaningful and memorable event.

Mind your health

Mental health is an important part of our overall health. It influences how we think, what we feel, and how we behave. Our mental health can greatly impact our relationships, self-esteem, and ability to learn new things. Mental health challenges can happen to anyone, at any age, and in any situation.

Did you know: 1 in 5 students experience mental health challenges?

This is why it is so important to talk to your children about mental health and learn how to recognize the signs of when they might be struggling.

Possible signs of poor mental health:

- Avoiding friends and family
- Rebelling against authority
- Losing interest in activities they once enjoyed
- Frequent mood swings
- Significant drop in school marks

How parents can support their child's mental well-being:

- Encourage children to talk about their feelings
- Respect their feelings and emotions
- Stay positive and avoid being judgmental
- Take children to their family doctor to explore concerns

Your child can speak over the phone or chat online with a counselor from Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 or kidshelpphone.ca

For more information visit [Grand Erie Public Health's website](#).

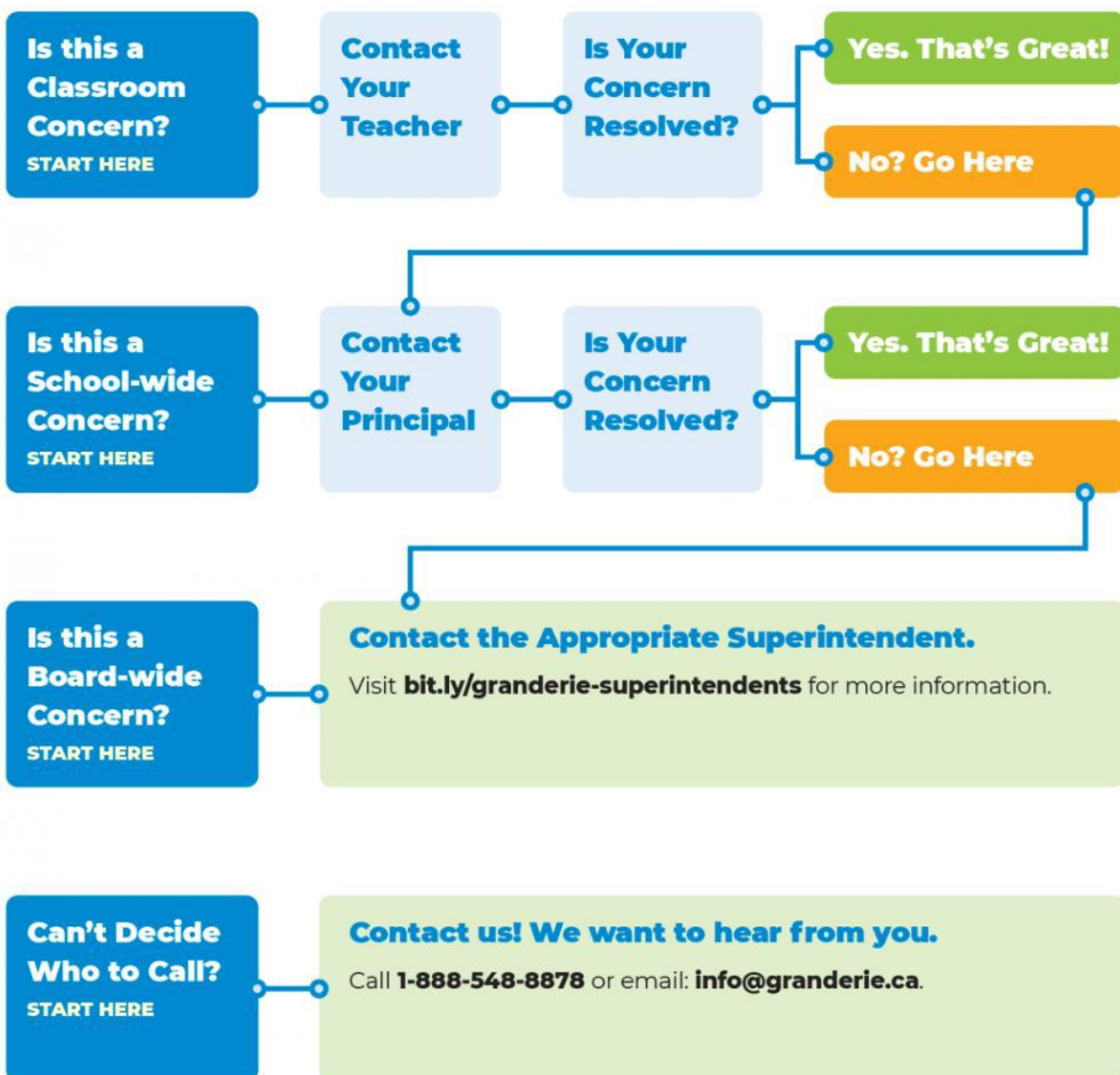


Parent/Caregiver/ Community Member Concern Chart



We're Here to Help

Find out who to contact at Grand Erie using this helpful resource.



Your Trustee can guide you through this process.

Find your Superintendent and Trustee Representative at granderie.ca/board/about/trustees