

OAKWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

255 Omer Avenue, Port Colborne, Ontario (905) 834-9732

Achieving Success Together

Back to School - Sept. 2021

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept. 7th — First day of School—gr. K- 8
- Sept. 13th—Spirit Day—wear Red & Black!
- Sept. 27th— Tentative—School Photos
- Sept. 28th —6 pm —1st School Council Meeting & Elections (will be held virtually)
- Sept. 29th—Rowan's Law Day—wear purple for concussion awareness
- Sept. 30th—Orange Shirt Day



French
Prep
EA's

Caretaker
Lunch Supervisors

Secretary
Principal

Mdme. Fulton
Ms. Schonewille
Mrs. Airhardt, Mrs. Bell, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Fricke, Mrs. Juras, Ms. Namtzu
Mrs. White
Mrs. DenHollender, Mr. 'Jerry' Guindon & Mrs. Yates
Ms. Bodner
Mrs. Rocco

FROM the PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome back! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our returning students, as well as to our new students and their families. We sincerely hope that all of you have enjoyed a healthy and safe summer. We are excited to meet our new to school kindergarten families as well as those in other grades who are new to the Eagle's Nest.

Now that we have physically returned to our school, we are looking forward to rebuilding our routines together. At this point, as we are following the guidelines developed in partnership with Public Health, the school day will look very similar to last year! Most processes are outlined below for our families.

Thank you to Mrs. White for all of her efforts in preparing our school for the new school year. Our school looks fabulous and with the enhanced cleaning, HEPA filters in many rooms and constant vigilance, we are doing our best to keep everyone safe and healthy!

As a staff, we are committed to providing the best atmosphere for social, emotional and educational development for our students! We look forward to working with you as we continue to overcome the hurdles that Covid has thrown our way to give your children a memorable year! Bring it on 2021-2022!

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Welcome to our new and returning students and families! We look forward to meeting you or seeing you again! In addition to welcoming new students this fall, we are also pleased to introduce some new faces to the staff at Oakwood. The following is list of staff and their current grade assignments based on the registration numbers of our in school friends as of late August. **Please note that the DSBN re-visits enrollment numbers at each school and both staffing and this organization is subject to change during the month of September.**

- ELP-1
- ELP-2
- Grade 1
- Grade 2/3
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Grade 6/7
- Grade 7/8
- FSP
- LRT

- Mrs. Weber-Tonnos & Ms. Bomberry
- Mrs. Hannigan
- Mrs. Scalzo
- Mr. Tonnies
- Ms. MacKenzie
- Ms. DaEira
- Mrs. Fehrman
- Mr. Bartok
- Mr. Wilson
- Mr. Hockley
- Ms. Huibers



BELLS (ENTRANCE/DISMISSAL)

8:20 - Morning Supervision begins—a gentle reminder that ONLY school staff may enter the playground area or enter the school building.

8:35 - Morning entry

10:15 or 10:55 - 1st Nutrition Break— all students stay

12:15 or 12:55 - 2nd Nutrition Break—students with permission may go home

2:55 - Dismissal

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Our school bell rings at 8:35 a.m. Please have students arrive and go to the playground **after 8:20 and prior to 8:35**. The yard is supervised by staff as of 8:20. Please drop off children at the entrance to the children's designated playground area. Kindergarten students are always dropped off to a staff member. When students arrive in the morning, they will wait for the entry bell in their designated waiting spaces. Students arriving after the 8:35 bell has rung must report to the office for a late slip and to receive direction on where to locate their homeroom classroom.

A reminder to parents that an appointment, and a 'Covid Visitor Assessment' are required to visit the office. To drop off student items, simply ring the buzzer at the front door and speak to Ms. Bodner. Thank-you!

All students will be dismissed promptly at 2:55 p.m. Please wait outside of the school for children unless you are signing them out to leave early. Please try to social distance yourselves while waiting! We would also like to remind our community members to remain masked when within 6 feet of those not in their households.

Finally, it is important to note that there is no adult supervision for students who linger on the playground after dismissal, therefore it is the Board's expectation that all students leave school property immediately after dismissal.

LATES

It is very important that your child arrives on time. When your children arrive late, they miss the introduction to a lesson and therefore may lack some understanding as to the lesson content. Also, by arriving late into a classroom, a child disrupts the presentation of the lesson which is unfair to the rest of the class. **When a student is late, he/she must report to the office. This is important as the office will direct the student to the location of their homeroom which will vary day to day.** (please note that this is also the routine for kindergartens who arrive after the 8:35 bell, but before the students head indoors). If you know that your child is going to be late or absent please remember to record this information in Safe Arrival through the School Messenger App. By calling 1-866-606-5567.



VISITORS

As the DSBN follows the guidelines of Public Health, we are following their directive, and no unscheduled visitors (including parents) are allowed into the building at this time. Please note that we are carefully tracking visitors to the building to keep everyone safe!

The office is open and available by appointment and with a completed Covid Self-Assessment. Most parent meetings will take place virtually and this entry opportunity is for processes such as the completion of registration paperwork, etc. As we get accustomed to the guidelines established for schools this fall, we ask that you have patience. We know many are a little uncertain about school, but trust that we are doing the best that we can to support you and your children safely!

SAFE SCHOOLS

Door buzzers are in place for all schools in the DSBN to allow schools to monitor the access to buildings. Please do not enter the building from any door other than the front office door, and this door only when buzzed in by the office.

EMERGENCY & MEDICAL INFORMATION

A gentle reminder to keep the school informed of any changes to your children's emergency contact information or medical conditions throughout the year. Telephone numbers, contact names, and student medical information does change beyond our September 'Verification Form' updates and we'd like our records to be accurate at all times. With your help we can keep better informed. Thank you.

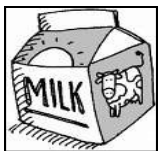


BUS

Only registered riders may ride the bus. If you have transportation concerns, regarding eligibility, pick up times or locations, please contact NSTS (Niagara Student Transportation Services) directly. Remember that all students from grade 1-8 must wear masks while riding the bus. To help with social distancing and contact tracing according to Covid protocols, all student riders must sit in their assigned seats at all times. Failure to comply with these Public Health regulations will have serious repercussions for all. Please discuss with your children the importance of these guidelines. Thank you!

LUNCH

To allow us to social distance during lunch and on the playground, we will continue to have staggered lunches again this year. Students have lunches either period 3&6 or 4&7. All students are expected to remain at school during their first lunch break. It is important for the school to know what arrangements you have made for your child during their nutrition breaks. Please complete the



Oakwood Nutrition Routine form and return and it to the school as soon as possible. Our 'official lunch', during which students with parental permission are permitted to leave school property is their respective designated 2nd nutrition break.

We hope to have specialty lunches available for students again a little later this school year! We will keep you posted!

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Please note that with the support of Niagara Nutrition Partners and Public Health, we hope to have our morning snack program up and running by early October. More information will be communicated when this program is ready for students.

MILK & SNACK PROGRAM

When we have received permission to move forward with our daily milk and snack programs we will let you know! They are on pause for now, but plan to have them up and running very soon!

AGENDAS

We will be using agendas this year as a method to teach students organization skills. Your child's homeroom teacher will let you know if the main method of classroom communications will be sent electronically or through the student agendas.

SHOES

With cold and wet weather on its way, we are reminding parents to send an indoor pair of shoes to school for all children. Students will **not** be permitted to wear their wet/ muddy outdoor shoes within the building. Ideally indoor shoes are running shoes, which can be utilized for physical education. Students must have running shoes to be permitted to participate in physical education classes! Please send your children's shoes in quickly! Also note that flip flops, boots or strapless sandals are not permitted on the playground structures for student safety!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

To benefit fully from the education program students must come to class prepared and participate regularly. It is our expectation that all students participate in physical education classes unless exempted for short-term medical reasons. Please send a doctor's note if your child is unable to participate on a long term basis and we will work with you to accommodate their programming. All students must wear running shoes to participate in their physical education classes.

SPORTS

DSBN has plans for student inter-school athletics to resume this fall! We will keep students informed as sports begin and team tryouts commence.

PLAYGROUNDS/CLIMBERS

Our primary and intermediate climbers are closed due to safety concerns pending repairs. Please do not let your children on these structures for their own safety!

WATER STATION

A reminder that Oakwood has two purified water re-fill stations. Students are encouraged to drink water and protect the environment by utilizing re-usable water bottles at the filling stations! Way to be health conscious and green Eagles!

NUTS

At this time we **DO NOT** have any nut allergies. Students are able to bring nut products including peanut butter to school. **Please note**, that if this status changes, we will immediately send out urgent communications to all families to enforce a nut safe school.

COMPUTERS & PRINTING PRIVILEGES

Students who have completed their 'DSBN digital citizenship agreement' (online through School Cash ONLINE) with their parents will be permitted access to the internet when directly supervised by a classroom teacher. Computer use during lunch is NOT permitted. All students are able to print appropriate classroom materials with the direction and support of their classroom teacher. Students, are however, given a cap of 100 free printed pages in order to limit wasteful printing and to limit the cost of maintaining both paper and printer cartridges.

RETURN OF BORROWED TECHNOLOGY

If your family still has a computer and/or charger borrowed from the school Board last year, please return it to the office promptly. We need to have these computers software systems updated to be able to put them back into circulation! Thanks!

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

It is important that all cell phones and electronic devices are turned off and in students' bags during the school day. As we do not have lockers, we encourage students to leave valuables or electronics at home as the school can not be responsible for loss or theft. Students may only use phones with teacher permission and supervision outside of the main office. As we have courtesy phones, student phones must stay in student back-packs all day. Students whose phones are being used inappropriately (ie. during class or on the playground without permission) will have their phone confiscated by staff, and parents will be notified to come pick it up as per DSBN policy. If your child has a phone, please review these expectations with them! Thank you!

MEDICATION

When parents request the school to assume the responsibility of administering medications to their children, a few things must be ensured. A DSBN parental consent form must be signed, which also requires a physician's signature before the school is able to administer any medication. Medication must be sent to school in the original labeled container.

In the case of prescription medications, the name of the child and that of the medicine on the bottle label must also match those listed on the signed form before it can be administered by a staff member. Please book an appointment at the office to set up student meds with us. Thanks!

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If your child suffers from a medical condition, (Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, Anaphalaxis or other) please alert the office or your child's teacher. We will discuss the condition with you and put into place a medical plan (if required) to ensure that your child's needs are met to the best of our abilities while at school or when they are riding the bus. If you have identified any of these conditions on your child's registration or verification forms, please expect or request a Medical Plan Form to come your way.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please help to look after our school! Sadly, we often experience a fair amount of vandalism during warm evenings or over weekends, so we need your help to look after our community school! If you need to report incidents, please call the Niagara Regional Police.

IMPORTANT PAPERWORK

(Will arrive or be posted on School Cash ONLINE during first week of school)

1. DSBN School Year Calendar
2. School Council Elections—Nomination Form
3. Individualized DSBN - Student Data Verification Form (please complete and return)
4. Digital Citizenship agreement (complete online)
5. Lunch—Nutrition Routine Form (complete & return)
6. Permission to Participate in Physical Education (complete online)
7. School Cash Online Info. (New Kindergartens only)
8. School Messenger Info. (New Kindergartens only)
9. School Agenda (Grades 1-8 only)

STUDENT ATTENDANCE—EVERY DAY COUNTS

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling, that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't add up to much?