

OAKWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

Achieving Success Together

Back to School - Sept. 2022

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept. 9th—Spirit Day—wear Red & Black!
- Sept. 15th— School Photos
- Sept. 20-22nd—Scholastic Book Fair
- Sept. 21st—Meet the Teacher—4-5:30
- Sept. 27th —6 pm —1st School Council Meeting & Elections (will be held virtually)
- Sept. 28th—Rowan's Law Day—wear purple for concussion awareness
- Sept. 29th—Oakwood's Terry Fox Day
- Sept. 30th—Orange Shirt Day



Caretaker
Lunch Supervisors
Secretary
Principal

Fricke, Mrs. Juras, Ms. Namtzu, Ms. Thompson
Mrs. Mater
Mrs. Morden & 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 Oakwood Community. We are looking forward to rebuilding our routines together., starting sports and clubs and enjoying special events and lunches. At this point, the school day will look very similar to pre-Covid years!

Thank you to Mrs. Mater and her team for their efforts in preparing our school for the new school year and to the teachers and support staff for coming in during their holidays to arrange welcoming spaces for student learning! As a staff, we are committed to providing the best atmosphere for social, emotional and educational development for our students! We look forward to learning and growing together in 2022-2023!

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 students as of late August. **Please note that the DSNB re-visits enrollment at each school and both the staffing and this organization are subject to change during the month of September.**

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|-----------|--------------------------------|
| ELP-1 | Mrs. Armstrong & Ms. Bomberry |
| ELP-2 | Mrs. Hannigan & Mrs. Wyatt |
| Grade 1/2 | Mrs. Scalzo |
| Grade 1/2 | Mr. Tonnies |
| Grade 3/4 | Ms. MacKenzie |
| Grade 4/5 | Mr. Montgomery |
| Grade 5/6 | Mr. Maunder |
| Grade 6/7 | Mr. Bartok |
| Grade 7/8 | Mr. Wilson |
| FSP | Mr. Hockley |
| LRT | Mrs. Weber-Tonnos |
| French | Mdme. Maurice |
| Prep | Ms. Schonewille & Ms. Daurio |
| EA's | Mrs. Airhardt, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. |



BELLS (ENTRANCE/DISMISSAL)

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

8:35 - Morning entry

10:15—1st Nutrition Break— all students stay

12:35—2nd Nutrition Break—students with permission may go home, ONLY gr. 7 or 8 with permission may go out for lunch

2:55 - Dismissal

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Our school entry 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, a bell will ring, signally that the playground is open. Please drop off children at the entrance to the children's designated playground area. Please ensure that Kindergarten students are always dropped off directly to a staff member for their safety.

Students arriving after the 8:35 bell has rung must report to the office for a late slip. Please don't have students run to the back of the school at this time, they may find doors locked!

All students will be dismissed promptly at 2:55 p.m. Please wait outside of the school playground for children unless you are signing them out at the office to leave early.

Finally, it is important to note that there is no staff supervision for students who linger on the playground after dismissal, thus those without parent supervision, or those participating on a school team will be asked to head home.

LATES

It is very important that your child arrives to school on time. When your children arrive late, they miss the introduction to lessons 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

The office is open and available to parents, however, the school itself, will not be accessible to visitors during the instructional day. To see a staff member, please schedule an appointment before or after the school day. Most parent meetings will still take place virtually or via phone. To drop off student items, simply ring the buzzer at the front door and speak to Ms. Bodner, we will deliver items for you. Thank-you!



FOUNTAINS AND DRINKS

We have one fountain and 2 water refill stations at Oakwood. The fountain will be re-opened soon! Students are encouraged to have refillable water bottles at school. We will discourage the use of single use water bottles for environmental purposes and as some students refill these bottles without washing them which is very unsanitary. Way to be health conscious and green Eagles!

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

Please note that only registered riders may ride the bus. If as a caregiver, you have transportation concerns, regarding eligibility, pick up times or locations, please contact NSTS (Niagara Student Transportation Services) directly. Sorry but we are unable to do this on your behalf! Also note that all students who are registered riders **must** ride the bus home at dismissal for their safety unless they have a note to walk, or are at a team practice with parental permission and have notified their bus driver.

LUNCH

Please complete the Oakwood Nutrition Routine form and return 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. During this break K-6 students may go home for lunch, and with permission, gr. 7 & 8 students may go out for lunch)

We hope to have specialty lunches available for students again by late September! We will keep you posted!



BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Please note that with the support of Niagara Nutrition Partners we hope to have our morning snack program up and running within the first few weeks of school! More information will be communicated to students when this program is ready!

MILK & SNACK PROGRAM

They are on pause for now, but we plan to have them up and running.



AGENDAS

Most classes 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. 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 be able to participate in their physical education classes.**



SPORTS

DSBN has planned for all student inter-school athletics to resume this fall! We will keep students informed as sports begin and team tryouts commence. We usually kick off September with Soccer and Cross Country so get ready!

PLAYGROUNDS/CLIMBERS

Our primary and intermediate climbers are open for play! A reminder that students must have appropriate footwear to play on the climbers (no boots, sandals, or 'heeled' shoes)

NUTS

At this time we **DO NOT** have any nut allergies preventing nut products from coming to school. Students **are able** to bring nut products including peanut butter to school. **Please note**, that if this 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 or in the hallways 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.

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 their direct 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 happen to allow us to support your child in this way:

-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, the dosage of the meds and name 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, Anaphylaxis or any other pertinent condition) 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.



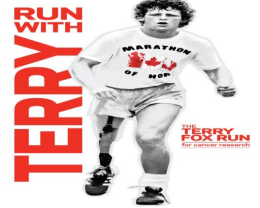
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please help to look after our school! Sadly, we 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.

TERRY FOX

Oakwood will be supporting the Canadian Terry Fox initiative on September 29th with classes either walking or running. Please consider making a donation to support Cancer research in Canada! Our web link is

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/OakwoodPSPortColborne>



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 or Mailbag
10. Photo Day Reminder
11. School Fridge Magnet (one per family)

WELCOME BACK! 2022-2023 IS GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR OF LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER!

The Niagara Region is growing more diverse in creed and/or religious beliefs and practices. The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to fostering diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environments that promote acceptance and protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Creed and/or religion is one of the grounds that is both an individual right and a collective responsibility. The DSBN recognizes and embraces the creed diversity represented in its students, staff, and community members.

As we start our school year, I invite you to share with me your family's most significant creed-based holiday(s). We will work together through the accommodation request process as insert name of school here recognizes the importance of families celebrating their creed and/or religious beliefs and practices.

The DSBN has created a [Family Guide: Recognizing and Respecting Creed Diversity](#) to support families in requesting accommodations. This guide has also been translated into the following languages; Arabic, French, Hungarian, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese, which can be viewed on the [DSBN Equity webpage](#). For a list of Days of Significance, please refer to the [Days of Significance Calendar](#).



