

ÉCOLE CONFÉDÉRATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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granderie.ca/confederation

Principal

Andrea Smith

Vice Principal

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avril-April 2017



Dear École Confédération Families;

Spring is officially here! It is so nice to see the extended hours of sunlight, hear the birds chirping, and see the snow piles have melted!

Staff will wrap up our Collaborative Inquiry on math instruction and our April 28th P.D. day. We will reflect on what we have learned through the process, examine student assessment data in order to complete our School Self Assessment, which will, in turn, inform our School Improvement Plan for next year.

Note that Education Week will be the first week of May this year. We will host our official school grand opening festivities that week. We will have a school-based assembly on Friday, May 5th for students and board personnel. On **Saturday, May 6th**, we will hold a community open house from **11am-2pm**. There will be many events for visitors, including our elimination draw, food trucks, book fair and lots of fun for all. We hope you can join us. Please save the date!

A reminder that April 14-17 is the Easter Weekend. School will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith
Principal

Mme N. Norton
Vice-Principal

Dates to Remember:

April 5-Little Strings Orchestra presentation for Gr. 5-7

April 6-Gr. 8 Grad Photos

April 7-SK Grad photos, Jersey Day (Wear favourite team jersey)

April 11-Harvey's night fundraiser

April 12-ECO team representatives to workshop with Mme Beecraft

April 13-Bunny Hop dance for Gr. 6-8

April 14-Good Friday (No School)

April 17-Easter Monday (No School)

April 19-Jr. Badminton Tournament (1:00 @ NPC)

April 20-Sr. Badminton Tournament (1:00 @ NPC), Choir to Kiwanis Music Festival

April 24-Choir performs at City Hall

April 25-Intermediate Chess tournament, School Council Dairy Queen Fundraiser

April 26-Wrestling tournament, Gr. 4 classes to Kanata village, Booster Club starts

April 27-Choir performs at Sanderson Centre for Education Week Gala, New to Kindergarten Orientation (4:00), Volunteer Appreciation Tea (4:15)

April 28-P.D. Day-no school for students

April 30-Brantford Classic Run (10:15 am @WRM School)

Building Healthy Relationships

Resolving Conflict and Preventing Bullying

Conflict and bullying get in the way of building healthy relationships. Understanding the difference between conflict and bullying is important because they require different responses.

Conflict is a natural part of how we relate to others. Conflict can arise whenever two or more people hold different opinions. Depending on how the conflict is resolved, it can be positive or negative. Learning how to deal with conflict in positive ways is an important life skill and helps us to build and maintain strong relationships.

When handled well, conflict can lead to positive outcomes- better decisions and ideas, more creativity, and deeper understanding each other. Sometimes, however, dealing with conflict constructively seems impossible.

TIPS:

- Don't ignore conflict, it will only get worse
- Develop conflict resolution skills
- Look for the real problem
- Model handling conflict positively

Conflict is an emotional state and gets worse when ignored. Try to deal with it right away, or let those involved know it will be sorted out later. Follow through.

When children in conflict come to you, listen to their concerns and encourage them to express their feelings. Sometimes children and teens come to understand their feelings better when they tell someone else how they feel. Once people in conflict feel heard, they are more likely to accept help to resolve the conflict positively.

(Healthy Relationships, C.O.D.E- The Council of Ontario Directors of Education)

Student's Council



On April 7th, student's council will host "Jersey Day". Wear your favourite team jersey for the day. Participants are asked for a \$1 donation towards our playground fund.

On Thursday, April 13th, the dance committee is planning a "Bunny Hop" dance for students in Gr. 6-8 in the afternoon.

School Council

The next school council meeting will be on April 19 at 6:00 in the library. All are welcome and childcare is provided.

Thanks to all who purchased spirit wear. Garments will be sent home with students when they arrive.

School Council continues to conduct fundraising to support a variety of opportunities for students. We are working on a lottery fundraiser for the month of April. Prize draw will happen in conjunction with our Grand Opening celebration on May 6th. Look for further information to come home soon. Thank you to all who have donated prizes for this event. We are more than 2/3 of the way towards our goal of purchasing and installing playground equipment. Help us reach our goal this year.

In addition, we will be hosting fundraisers at 2 local restaurants. On each occasion, a percentage of sales will be donated back to the school. Our first event will be at the Harvey's on Wayne Gretzky Parkway on Tuesday, April 11 from 4:30-7:30. The second event will be at Dairy Queen (either location) on Tuesday, April 25th.



Participation 150 Challenge

To help celebrate Canada's 150 years of Confederation the school has set out a challenge for its students and staff. We are still looking for student participation to help achieve this goal. Please encourage your child to check out the activity board, choose an activity, snap a picture, and send it to confederation150@gmail.com. This activity can be completed individually, with a friend, as a family, as a team, or as a class. Get involved, have fun, and help your school achieve this goal!



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.

Inspiring Your Child to Love and Learn Math



You are a mathematician! Children learn by imitating the people around them. They make meaning through experience and by interacting with important people in their lives. Parent imitation and modelling is essential for children to develop healthy academic skills.

Think Out Loud:

One of the best ways for you to be a math role model is to talk out loud as you work your way through everyday tasks. Thinking out loud allows your child to hear how you think, and it helps them to develop important skills required for “thinking things out” by posing and solving problems. When your child sees you making predictions and observations, identifying problems, using problem-solving strategies, and solving real problems, they are more likely to adopt your behaviours and attitudes.

Don't take shortcuts:

When you see your child using an unfamiliar strategy to add multi-digit number, try not to say, “Here, let me show you my way—it’s simpler and faster.” This response might undermine the teacher’s instruction, which is based on principles of children’s mathematical development. It also might confuse your child if they are not at the right stage of their math learning journey to understand your shortcuts or “tricks”.

(Inspiring Your Child to Learn and Love Math... C.O.D.E- The Council of Ontario Directors of Education)

A Note From the Public Health Nurse at Your School... Dental Health Matters

Every child should have their teeth checked. Worried about the cost? Healthy Smiles Ontario can help.

Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government funded program. It covers the cost of basic dental care such as exams, x-rays, and fillings. The Healthy Smiles Ontario website has more information. www.ontario.ca/page/get-dental-care.

Your child may be eligible if:

The child is 17 years old or younger

You cannot pay to take your child to the dentist

You do not have any dental coverage

Or

You have dental coverage but it costs too much to use
Still have questions? Contact Dental Services at the Brant County Health Unit. We are happy to talk with you. We can support you get help paying for your child’s visit to the dentist.

There are three ways to contact the Brant County Health Unit.

Call us at 519-753-4937 ext. 450.

Email dental@bchu.org

Visit the website at www.bchu.org/dental

Student Pick Up

From **3:15-3:45** pm daily, our parking lot is used as a bus loading zone for our 9 buses. There is **NO PARKING on site for student pick up at the end of the day.**

While parking is available on Coronation St. across from the school, please be respectful of our neighbours when parking there. Obey all posted signage. Parking is not permitted within the first several metres of the intersection. Please do not park in these spaces as it makes it very difficult for our crossing guard to see, as well as for those turning from Coronation onto Ewing drive. Do not block driveways and remember that there is a city bylaw prohibiting parking within 1 metre of a driveway.



There are two accessible parking spots that are available for those with permits only.

At all times, cars may not be parked under signage that marks a fire route. Be especially aware of fire route signs located in the front drive around curve and the sign posted along the sidewalk by the front entrance to the school.



All students that are not riding a bus will be dismissed through the gym doors. Caregivers may park on Coronation or Stodola streets, on the opposite side of Ewing Drive from the school. If you wish to meet your child at the school, please walk to the doors outside the gym. A crossing guard is stationed in front of the school to assist.

Thank you for your help in ensuring a safe dismissal for all of our students.



Hot Lunch Orders

Thanks to all who have registered for online payments. If you have not yet done so, you can sign up at any time.

Register by following these three steps.

Step 1: Visit: www.schoolcashonline.com

Step 2: Select "Get Started Now" and follow the steps to register

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in, and add each of your children to your household account.

The **Parent Help Desk** is available to support you in using School Cash Online. Friendly staff are available 24/7 (365 days) and can support you with registration, password recoveries, finding children or any check out or payment issues.

Food and Milk Order Deadlines:

Month	Milk Orders Due by...	Hot Lunch Orders Due by...
May	April 20	April 21 Pizza
June	May 18	n/a

Monthly Assemblies

During the month of April, we will be looking for students to demonstrate excellence in the habit of Sharpen the saw. Sharpen the saw means persevering and enhancing the greatest asset you have-you. It means having a balanced program for taking care of yourself in four areas of your life: physical, mental, social/emotional, and spiritual. Students will be recognized at our assemblies on April 25th and 27th.

Pets on the Playground

Families should be aware that pets are not allowed on the playground or in the drop off or pick up zone. There are students with allergies and the possibility of students hurting pets or vice versa are our primary concerns. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

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.

Coin de l'immersion/Immersion Corner

How can you help your child learn French?

Help your child become a thoughtful consumer of information.

Every day, in every language, people need to access, use, evaluate and create information. Because there is so much information available, children need to be able to filter out what they don't need and decide what information they do need. They will also need to learn how to check that the information is accurate and can be trusted.

Whatever language your child is working in, you can help by encouraging him or her to consider multiple sources and by asking such questions as, "Who is providing this information and why? Do you agree with it?" Learning by asking questions is one of the first skills students acquire in Ontario's publicly-funded classrooms, including those that offer French Immersion. So asking these question will reinforce how your child is learning at school.

By encouraging your child to read and research in both English and French, you can help your child build the vocabulary and language structures that can lead to effective communication skills in both languages. If your child's assignment is to write or discuss a topic in French, encourage him or her to do the research in French, rather than collecting information in English and translating. This way, your child benefits from learning new vocabulary related to the topic and seeing French-language structures in a context that relates to the assignment.

