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[granderie.ca/confederation](http://granderie.ca/confederation)

**Principal**

Andrea Smith

**Vice Principal**

Nancy Norton

**Office Coordinators**

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## février—February 2017

Dear École Confédération Families;

We are well on our way into 2017! February will be another busy month, with many activities and events.



On February 16, students in Gr. 1-8 will receive their Term 1 report card. This report card will reflect your child's achievement of the curriculum expectations, as well as his/her development in the learning skills and work habits from September until the end of January. The report card also includes a tear-off section where students and parents can reflect on student areas of strength, set goals, and identify strategies to meet those goals. This reporting period does not include a formal parent-teacher interview process, however, if you wish to discuss your child's progress, please indicate so on the tear off section of the report card before you return it to the school.

Let's keep our fingers crossed that our groundhog friends do not see their shadows, creating the anticipation of an early Spring. We wish you a restful and enjoyable Family Day weekend this month.

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith  
Principal

Mme N. Norton  
Vice-Principal

Feb. 2— Sweater Day—wear a sweater to school  
Feb. 15-School Council Meeting  
Feb. 10-Kindergarten Registration deadline  
Feb. 16-Report cards go home for Gr. 1-8 students  
Feb. 20-Family Day holiday (No school)  
Feb. 22-Pink shirt day, outdoor Carnaval event (school-wide)  
Feb. 22-Social Networking speaker at North Park Collegiate -7:00 pm  
Feb. 24-Bal Masqué, 6:00-7:30 @ Branlyn Gym  
Feb. 27-NED show presentation , National Cupcake day for SPCA



## Kindergarten Registration

Registration for September 2017 Kindergarten placement will begin on January 9th, 2017. All new students who wish to enter the Kindergarten French Immersion program must register between January 9, 2017 and February 10, 2017 at 4:00. Students who currently have siblings here at Confédération and live in our catchment area will be guaranteed a spot provided they register within these timelines. Please contact the main office to schedule an appointment to register your child. You will need to provide a birth certificate or proof of age/citizenship, and proof of current address to register.

## Monthly Assemblies

During the month of February, we will encourage students to “Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood”. In many ways, listening is the most important communication skill of all. Less than 10% of communication is contained in the words we use. The rest comes from body language and the tone and feeling reflected in our voice. When we truly listen, we listen with our ears, our eyes and our hearts.



## Building Healthy Relationships

The best gift you can give your children is your time. Show that you enjoy devoting time to them. Show your children that their time and energy can make a difference too, and recognize

the value they offer. Encourage them to take part in community projects such as helping seniors or tending a community garden.

Create opportunities for your child to be successful:

- Help them find out what they are good at doing;
- Help build their confidence in their skills and abilities;
- Be active together. Choose something you both like and can do;
- Be sure to comment on a job well done or an act of kindness; and
- Acknowledge when they meet a difficult challenge with perseverance.

The better children feel about themselves, the better they will relate to others.

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

## Coin de l’immersion/Immersion Corner



How can you help your child learn French?

There are several key things that you can do at home that will help your child to do well in the Early French Immersion (or any second language program).

Remember, it doesn’t matter what language you speak at home, try these tips to support your child’s language development.

*Help your child become a great communicator:*

Reading and writing skills start with good listening and speaking skills. All four skills are interconnected, and the Ontario curriculum strikes a balance between them. However, it is listening and speaking—the oral communication skills—that are considered key in second language learning.

Effective oral communication involves many factors, such as choice of words, tone of voice, volume and body language. When you draw your child’s attention to these elements of communication and show them in action, you provide a strong foundation for the development of effective communication skills in French, English or another language. Helping your child develop a broad vocabulary in English, or the language you speak at home, has added benefits. It helps develop thinking skills, teaches your child to communicate with precision and provides more opportunities to make connections with French.

(Adapted from Supporting Your Child’s Success in French Immersion and Extended French Elementary Schools, A Parent Guide, 2014, Ontario Ministry of Education)

## Sweater Day



Our school will be taking part in National Sweater Day on Thursday, February 2!

National Sweater Day is an annual event organized by World Wildlife Fund Canada. On National Sweater Day, WWF asks Canadians to turn down thermostats by two degrees Celsius at home, at school and at work to highlight the role that energy conservation plays in preventing climate change. Our school buildings will be a little chillier on February 2, so we are asking that all students wear or bring a sweater to school.

In addition to turning down the heat and turning up our sweaters, some of our classrooms will be participating in a number of activities designed to help students understand how everyday actions affect our planet’s future.

### Carnaval Celebrations

We will be celebrating le Carnaval de l'hiver during the week of 21-24th. Students will be involved in outdoor activities on Wednesday, February 22. The celebrations will end with our Bal masque on Friday, February 24th from 6:00-7:30 at the Branlyn gym. We hope you will be able to join us. Further details and a flyer will be sent home later this month.



### Peanut/Nut Aware School

A few reminders about food policies at École Confédération:

- \* We are 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.

Any treats sent in for special occasions (such as Valentine's Day) must be prepared in a health unit inspected and approved kitchen. All products must be nut free.

### Student's Council

Thanks to all who participated in our theme days and Candy Cane Grams during the month of December. We raised \$ 714.95 towards the purchase of playground equipment. Thanks for your participation and generosity!

### Food Drive

Thank you to all who participated in our Fill-a-bus food drive in December. We raised 936 pounds of food! We were one of 16 school in Brantford and Brant County who participated this year, bringing the grand total of food collected to 19 548 pounds! Bien fait tout le monde.



### EQAO Assessments

In the Spring, we will be participating in the EQAO assessments as follows:

-all grade 3 classes: Tuesday, May 23,  
Wednesday May 24, and  
Thursday, May 25.

-all grade 6 students: Tuesday, May 30,  
Wednesday, May 31 and  
Thursday, June 1.

During these dates, it is important for students to be at school. Please keep this in mind when planning ahead for the Spring.



### Playground Supervisors Needed

We are looking for adults to join our supervision team. Duties include supervising students before school and during the first nutrition break (eating and outside on the playground). This is a paid position. All supervisors must have a valid police check with vulnerable sector screening within the last 6 months, and cannot be a current member of our school council. If you are interested please contact Mme Smith in the main office.



## 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.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.schoolcashionline.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** 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...
March	Feb. 17	Feb. 17 Chinese Food
April	March 23	March 24 Pizza
May	April 20	April 21 Pizza
June	May 18	n/a

## School Council

We continue to raise funds for the purchase of playground equipment for our school. There will be a number of events to support this cause throughout the remainder of the school year. We are hoping to be able to begin installation by the Fall of 2017, if additional funds can be raised.

We will be holding an elimination draw fundraiser at the beginning of May. It will be a lottery event similar to the calendar fundraiser, where a variety of prizes will be offered. **If you have a prize that you could donate to this cause, please send it into the main office before the end of February.**

We will be selling school merchandise at the Carnaval Bal Masqué on February 24th. At this time, we will also accept donations towards our playground equipment purchase. We do not charge an entry fee for this event, but any donations would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds of the snack bar at this event will also go towards our playground equipment.

The next school council meeting will be on February 15th at 6:00 in the library. All are welcome and childcare is provided.

Visit our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/726910140658231/>

This is a place to see upcoming school events, fundraisers and general information. A safe place to ask Parent Council and fellow parents questions regarding the school and school activities.

On February 22 at 7 p.m., families are invited to attend a guest speaker at North Park Collegiate. Paul Davis will talk about social networking safety. All are welcome. Contact the main office for a flyer with full details and QR scan to R.S.V.P.

### Save the earth AND your money!

With over 200 lunches a year, it is easy to imagine how much garbage is created when students bring pre-packaged foods, plastic baggies and drinking boxes every day. Pre-packaged foods and drinking boxes are more expensive.

To be more **environmentally and money** conscious, consider how you can make your child's lunch littler-free as much as possible.

*A message from our EcoTeam*



**A little more planning, but worth the effort.....for everyone's sake!**

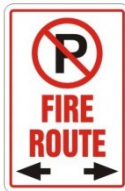
### Student Pick Up

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.**



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.

### A Note From our Public Health Nurse



#### Active Winter Fun for the Whole Family

Winter is here to stay for a while, but there is no need to hibernate indoors. Instead, go outside with the whole family and enjoy playing old games or trying out some new ones.

Building a snowman, tobogganing, playing a game of hockey, going skating or participating in a winter treasure hunt are all great activities that will get the whole family moving.

Before heading outdoors, keep these tips in mind:

- ✿ **Dress warm and layer clothing.** Don't forget a warm hat, mittens and boots!
- ✿ **Stay away from ponds and rivers.** They may look frozen, but the ice may not be thick enough to support your body weight. Play it safe!
- ✿ **Pack a lunch and something to drink.** It's easy to forget that in the cold air you can still get hungry and thirsty.
- ✿ **Wear Sunscreen.** You can get sunburn even in the winter!
- ✿ **Watch for frostbite.** Kids get frostbite faster than adults. Signs of frostbite include a prickly or itchy feeling in the skin, numbness and/ or discoloration on the face, ears hands or feet. Stay protected, stay warm.



### Pink Shirt Day

On February 22, wear a pink shirt to school to show your support to stand up to bullying.

To find out more about Pink Shirt Day go to <http://pinkshirtday.ca/>



### Inspiring Your Child to Love and Learn Math

You can be a math career advisor!

Be clear and confident when using math in daily life.

Use personal examples to relate your experience to that of people who use math as part of their jobs.

Celebrate people who use math every day to do their jobs-carpenters, firefighters, nurses, engineers, computer programmers, and accountants.

Watch the weather forecast together. Talk about all the ways the meteorologist uses math-maps, tracking the speed of fronts, and giving the probability of precipitation for the coming days.

When you watch airplanes approach the runway, describe the job of air traffic controllers. This job uses precise mathematical measurements to guide jumbo jets to safe landings.

Stop and observe surveyors or sports field custodians as they use trundle wheels to measure distances and tracks.

Make math fun!

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



## Inclement Weather and Transportation

Winter is just around the corner. In the event of inclement weather, there is the potential for transportation delays or cancellations and school closures.

### BUS # AND ZONE #

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 (FOR BRANT COUNTY STUDENTS).

A reminder to all parents that École Confédération is in Zone 4 and Zone 3 for those living in Brant County for all bus cancellations and school closures. BUSES 503, 504, 505, AND 510 COME FROM ZONE 3 BEFORE PICKING STUDENTS UP IN ZONE 4 FOR CONFÉDÉRATION - IF ZONE 3 IS CANCELLED THERE WILL BE NO PICK UP FOR STUDENTS IN BRANTFORD ON THOSE BUSES. BUS 507, 509, 519, 528 AND 543 ARE BRANTFORD BUSES ONLY AND WILL NOT PICK STUDENTS UP IF CANCELLED FOR ZONE 4.

Please listen to Radio Station CKPC (1380 AM and 92.1) or CHCH TV.

To see if buses are cancelled due to bad weather, or fog delay, you can go directly to the transportation website from the school website or the GEDSB website (under the parents tab). Click on the “home” tab and then the “transportation” tab, and look for zone 3 & 4. Please also check the bus delay icon to see if there are any bus cancellations listed there. You will need to know your child’s bus route number to see if their route has been cancelled.

Visit: [www.stsbhn.ca](http://www.stsbhn.ca)

click cancellations – closures and Bus Delay icons. You can also sign up for email notifications on this site. Click on the BUS DELAY icon then hit the SUBSCRIPTION icon and sign up for email notification. This must be done every year. Updates can also be received by following @STSBHN on Twitter.

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 families. It is very rare that the school will be closed half way through an instructional day.

On days of inclement weather, the staff of STSBHN and the bus companies, who provide service to our area, are actively reviewing current road conditions and future weather patterns in order to make a determination on delayed or cancelled transportation services. Information is collected from a number of sources and a decision is made and posted no later than 6:30 a.m.

As the decision to run, delay or cancel transportation is made in advance of services actually being provided, there may be some instances where variability exists in what was forecast versus what actually occurs. STSBHN

and its member school boards want to provide options for the parents and students of our area and so, when it appears safe to do so, transportation services will be permitted to continue as usual.

If, on an inclement weather day you feel that your child(ren) would be better off not taking the bus and either being transported into school by yourself or staying home altogether as a result of the road conditions at or near your home, STSBHN and the boards do understand and respect that this decision ultimately rests with you.



## Information and Updates

There are several ways for families to keep up to date with information about our school:

1. Visit our website :

[granderie.ca/confederation](http://granderie.ca/confederation)



2. Sign up for École Confédération’s **REMIND** account.:
  - 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 blind, we don't see your contact info and you don't see ours. Cancel at any time.

3. Follow us on Twitter: @EcoleConfedGE