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Principal

Andrea Smith

Vice Principal

Nancy Norton

Office Coordinators

Michele Edmondson

Angela Vandeven

décembre—December 2016

Dear Confédération Families;

December brings us to the end of another year. We hope you will be able to join us for our Open House on December 22nd from 5:30-7:30pm. There will be a Kindergarten performance in the gym from 5:45-6:00. From 6:00-7:30, Gr. 1-8

classrooms will host une soirée portes-ouvertes. The format is drop in, so you may attend during a time that fits with your schedule. Each classroom will be hosting a different activity.



Happy Holidays

Thanks to all parents who were able to attend parent-teacher conferences in November. We appreciate your collaboration in contributing to the success of our students!

Finally, on behalf of the staff at École Confédération, we would like to wish all of our families a safe and restful holiday season. We hope the break provides you with the opportunity to relax, recharge, and spend some quality family time together.

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith
Principal

Mme N. Norton
Vice-Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec. 2—Pyjama Day, Choir Performance at 7:00 (tickets \$5)

Dec. 5-9—Fill a bus food drive campaign

Dec. 6-Skating for Gr. 1 (pm), volleyball tournament (all teams)

Dec. 7-Glenhyrst night: 5:30-7:30

Dec. 9-Candy Cane grams go on sale. \$1 each, to be sent to a friend within the school

Dec. 13-Gr. 1 & 2 to Mary Poppins

Dec. 16-Candy Cane grams delivered, North Park Concert Band performance (Gr. 7 & 8 students), Hot lunch and Milk orders due (online)

Dec. 19 & 20-Kindergarten to Kidtastic

Dec. 20-Skating for Gr. 1, Choir performance at Amberlea Place

Dec. 22-Holiday Hat day, Kindergarten concert: 5:45-6:00, Holiday Open house 6:00-7:30 pm

Dec. 23-Ugly Holiday Sweater Day, Gr. 6-8 dance-bring a toonie or a non-perishable food item as entrance fee.

Monthly Assemblies

During the months of December and January, we will be encouraging students to “Think Win-Win”. Truly thinking Win-Win, or always thinking about another as well as yourself, is an important habit of mind to teach our children. Congratulations to all students who were recognized at the end of November for their efforts at “Putting First Things First”.

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



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

Holiday Open House

On December 22, we will be hosting our holiday open house in the evening. The evening will begin with a kindergarten performance at 5:45. Following the performance, Kindergarten caregivers may pick up their children from their classrooms. From 6:00-7:30, there will be a variety of activities in classrooms and throughout the school. The structure of the evening will be flexible, so families are able to arrive and depart at a their leisure throughout the period between 6:00 and 7:00. Visit your child’s classroom, have a snack at the café (run by our intermediate students) and purchase some school spirit swag. We hope you can join us!



Sports Updates

Volleyball practices continue of Mondays and Thursdays afterschool. All teams will be attending a volleyball tournament on Tuesday, December 6th. We wish our teams bonne chance and thank our coaches M. Snell, Mme Croucher and Mme Beecraft.

Badminton practices have started on Wednesdays after school. For additional information, contact our coach, M. Mollon.

Coin de l’immersion/Immersion Corner

Can students learn skills in one language and transfer them to another? Yes, Yes, Yes!

The goal of the French Immersion program is for students to develop proficiency not just in French, but in English as well-Canada’s two official languages.

There are many skills and abilities that transfer between different languages. These can include phonetic skills, comprehension strategies, higher-order thinking skills and familiarity with text formats. Parents can play a big role in supporting their child’s success in French. Below are some of the literacy skills that can be transferred from one language to another.



- **Communicating effectively**—regardless of the language being used, communication makes us organize our thinking. We need to think about our audience and choose language that explains our thinking with precision.
- **Thinking imaginatively and analytically**—we use language to wonder about and imagine solutions to everyday problems, and to weigh a range of possibilities and outcomes to our actions.
- **Accessing, managing, evaluating and creating information**—languages serve as tools that allow us to receive information, build knowledge and communicate understanding. When we learn to do this in one language, we can apply it to any language we speak.
- **Understanding how we learn and think**—when we come to know how we think and what helps us learn, we grow in our ability to apply this knowledge to new learning. When we recognize our unique strengths and ways of learning, we can apply this in every language we use.

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

Student Pick-Up and Drop Off

Our school parking lot provides for a “Kiss and Drop” area for families to use in the mornings. **This area is a no-parking zone.** Caregivers may stop in this zone long enough to drop off students and then continue on out of the parking lot. If you wish to park and walk your child to the drop off zone, street parking is available on Coronation and Stodola Drives, in front of the school. The on-site parking at the school is reserved for staff parking only. Areas where signage is posted indicating a Fire Route must be kept clear at all times. Parking in these areas can result in a fine.



Student Pick –Up and End of Day Routines

All students who walk or are being picked up will be dismissed out the exit doors by the gym. If caregivers wish to wait for students, please wait by the bicycle racks along the side of the school. **Aside from the 2 permit parking spots for vehicles with an accessibility sticker, there is no parking on site for student pick up at the end of the day.**

We have 9 large buses to transport our students. Dismissal from school at the end of the instructional day is staggered to allow for a safe exit to the buses for all children. Please note that Junior and Senior Kindergarten students who are being picked up will be at the caregiver pick up area (gym doors by the exterior bicycle racks) by 3:20 daily. Parents of Kindergarten students may pick up their children at that time. It is expected that all students will be picked up by 3:30 p.m. daily unless they are participating in a teacher supervised extra curricular activity. For safety reasons, please keep the sidewalk alongside the buses clear for bus loading, refrain from leaning against buses while waiting, and ensure that little ones who are waiting with you are supervised and well away from parked buses.

Dismissal time is very busy for students. It is important for families to establish a clear routine with children and the classroom teacher. If there is a change in routine, a note from the parent/guardian will be expected by the teacher **each and every time.**

Thank you for helping us ensure safety for all.

Online Payment System

ÉCOLE CONFEDERATION is excited to introduce School Cash Online. This is an online payment system that allows you to pay for your children(s) day-to-day school expenses such as all FOOD DAYS, MILK, school activities, field trips and sport events. For the next milk and lunch orders (coming out in December), only online payments will be accepted. Teachers and the office will not be able to accept cash payments for these orders. All other school activities will move to online payment after Jan 1, 2017.



School cash online is a **quick, easy and secure** way to pay.

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.

A short video tutorial is available at the following link:

<http://www.kevsoftware.com/movies/ParentRegEnglish/>

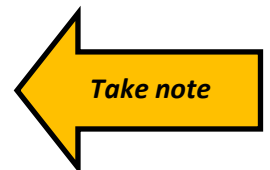
The **Parent Help Desk** available to support you in using School Cash Online. Friendly staff are available 24/7 (365 days) and can support you with registration, password recoveries, finding children or any check out or payment issues.

Food and Milk Order Deadlines:

January orders due Dec. 16

February orders due Jan. 20

March orders due Feb. 17



School Council



School council meetings are open for all to attend. Meetings are usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the library. Start time is 6:00 and childcare is provided. We continue our efforts to raise funds for playground equipment at the school.

A committee has been struck and is working with the GEDSB purchasing and facilities services departments to finalize plans. Thanks to everyone who participated in our recent fundraisers. With the Dairy Queen event and magazine sales, close to \$2400.00 was raised. We will continue to organize a variety of fundraising events throughout the year to help bring us to the required funds to purchase and install our playground equipment. If you prefer not to participate in fundraising, donations to our fundraising initiatives are always appreciated. A receipt for income tax purposes can be arranged. Please contact the main office for details.

We will be holding our annual Glenhyrst Family Night on December 7th from 5:30-7:30 pm. We hope to see you out for some family time and a cup of hot chocolate!

Festival Du livre/French Book Fair

Thank you for supporting our Festival du livre. Total sales for this event exceeded \$5400! A percentage of the profits from this will be used to purchase additional books and materials for our Library Learning Commons.

Student Council News

Our school council is planning a number of fun events during the month of December. Thanks to Mme Whittaker for her leadership with this group of students. In support of our School Council's efforts to raise funds for the installation of playground equipment, we are asking students to provide a \$1 donation when participating in school spirit days.

December events are:

Dec. 2– Pyjama Day

Dec. 9-Candy Cane grams go on sale. \$1 each, to be sent to a friend within the school

Dec. 16-Candy Cane grams delivered

Dec. 22-Holiday Hat day

Dec. 23-Ugly Holiday Sweater Day, Gr. 6-8 dance-bring a toonie or a non-perishable food item as entrance fee.

Inspiring Your Child to Love and Learn Math



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.

Go grocery shopping:

Grocery stores are a great source of spontaneous math lessons and a great place to use the “think aloud” strategy:

- Many stores have scales available. As you shop for fruit, stop and estimate the weight of a bag of apples. Use the scale to get an accurate measure in kilograms. Congratulate yourself on the accuracy of your measurement, or ask yourself how you can improve.
- Select a variety of bottles, cans and containers that hold one litre of contents. Emphasize to your child that, although the shape may change, the volume stays constant.
- As you fill your shopping cart, keep a running total of the cost of items by recording them in a small notebook. Round the prices in order to estimate, then check the total with a calculator. How close were you to the actual sum at the cash register?

Cook with math:

Think of your kitchen as a math laboratory where you are the math scientist and your child is your assistant.

Talk about special tools (cups, spoons, and scales) and methods for measuring ingredients.

- How do we know which measuring device to use when we read the units in a recipe?
- What are the steps in doubling or halving recipes?
- How do we set a timer?
- After the pizza comes out of the oven, how do we cut it into eight equal slices?
- If we make 24 cupcakes, how can we share them equally if there are 6 people at the birthday party? How many cupcakes does each person get if 12 more guests arrive.

(Adapted from CODE-Council of Ontario Directors of Education)

A Note From Our Public Health Nurse...

Tips for Keeping Your Family Safe This Holiday Season

The holiday season may be the most wonderful time of the year. It is also a time of year where mishaps and visits to the emergency room may increase, especially for children. Protect your little ones from common holiday dangers by following some of these holiday safety tips:

- *Make sure your Christmas tree is sturdy. Trees that are not secured properly can fall onto children.
- *Keep trees away from sources of heat such as electrical outlets, radiators and portable space heaters.
- *Practice fire safety and have a family emergency plan in the event of a fire.
- *Hang smaller decorations higher up on the tree. Small decorations may look pretty but can pose a choking hazard for young children.
- *When buying toys, look for ones that are well-made and age appropriate. Remember to check the Government of Canada's Recalls and Safety Alerts database to see whether any toy has been recalled.
- *Keep holiday plants out of children's reach. Mistletoe and holly are poisonous and can cause an upset stomach.
- *Be aware of food safety guidelines to avoid accidental food poisoning over the holiday season.
- *For more holiday safety tips, visit the injury topics section of Parachute Canada at www.parachutecanada.org.



Building Healthy Relationships

Help Your Child Develop Resiliency

We cannot always protect our children from the disappointments and challenges they will face in the future, but we can prepare them for that future by helping them to become more resilient. Resilience is the ability to “bounce back” after disappointments. It is about learning what went wrong, gaining strength from setbacks, and trying again. Children can learn to become more resilient through their experiences. We cheer them on when we teach them that failures are simply part of the learning and growing process. The more supportive relationships your children have, the more resilient they can become in stressful situations. Resilient children not only make their own work better, but they can also help others.



Stress the Importance of Helping Others

Help children and youth appreciate that there are many people less fortunate than they are. Your children can make a positive difference by doing things for others. This will assist them in developing empathy and giving them a sense of their own self-worth.

Encourage teamwork. We all gain confidence and motivation when we know that we are capable and that others appreciate our contributions.

([Healthy Relationships](#), C.O.D.E-the Council of Ontario Directors of Education)

School Safety Procedures

We completed our mandatory lockdown drill during the month of November. We will have two additional fire drills and another lockdown practice in the Spring.



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
click cancellations – closures and Bus Delay icons.

Sign up for email notification from the transportation department at
www.stsbhn.ca

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 parents. Parents should note that 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.

Changes to Transportation

If you are not using transportation services for an extended period of time (i.e. more than a month), parents are requested to contact the school, Sharp Bus Lines and GEDSB transportation office and have your child taken off the bus list.

GEDSB transportation: 519-751-7532

Sharp Bus Lines: 519-751-3434

Parents are advised to contact Sharp Bus Lines and/or GEDSB Transportation Department for all after hours issues and any concerns with buses and transportation schedules and routes.

