

ÉCOLE CONFÉDÉRATION

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



octobre—October 2016

54 Ewing Drive
Brantford, Ontario

N3R 5H8

519-751-2891

granderie.ca/confederation

Principal

Andrea Smith

Vice Principal

Nancy Norton

Office Coordinators

Michele Edmondson

Sandy Pottruff

Dear Confédération Families;

As September draws to a close, it is hard to believe that we have been back to school for an entire month! Thank you to our staff, students, families, support personnel, and community partners for helping us get the 2016-2017 school year off to a great start! It was great to meet so many of our families at our annual Meet the Teacher open house.



As we look forward to the month of October, we are reminded of the many exciting events happening in our families, our community, and at our school. From sporting events to outings and visitors, our students will be busy learning from many enriching opportunities.

This weekend is the Thanksgiving holiday weekend (preceded by the PD day on Friday, October 7th). We hope you will all have the opportunity to relax, refresh and take a moment to reflect on all we have to be thankful for.

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith
Principal

Mme N. Norton
Vice-Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Oct. 3 - Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine will be offered to Grade 7 boys and girls and Grade 8 girls.

Oct. 5—School Council @ 6:00 p.m. in the library

Oct. 6—Terry Fox Run (rescheduled from Sept. 29th)

Oct. 7—PD Day-no school for students

Oct. 10—Thanksgiving Day: No school

Oct. 13 & 14—Gr. 2 to App's Mill

Oct. 14—Cross Country meet at Mohawk Park

Oct. 17—MS Read-a-thon begins, Jr. Soccer Tournament at John Wright Field

Oct. 19-Intermediate Soccer Tournament at John Wright Field

Oct. 19 & 20 – Picture days : Oct. 19 for Grades 3-6

Oct. 20 for Grades JK-2, 7 & 8**

**Note change in photo days for Intermediate students due to conflict with soccer tournament.

Oct. 20—Gr. 4-6 to Sanderson Centre

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**

All newsletters, office forms, and school information will be found on the website (still currently under construction). Paper copies of the newsletter are available upon request only (notify your child's teacher). All Remind texts and tweets with the hashtag **#confedcourage** appear on our school website.

Thanks4giving Food Drive

We are currently collecting donations of non-perishable food items for the Thanks4giving food drive. All proceeds will go to the Brantford Food Bank. Items will be accepted until Thursday, October 6th. Thank you for your support of this cause.



Monthly Assemblies

We will be recognizing students who demonstrate leadership in the 7 habits at our monthly assemblies. Congratulations to all students who were recognized for "being proactive" at our assembly on September 30th. For the month of October, we will be recognizing student leadership in "Starting with the end in mind".

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.



Sports Updates



Congratulations to all of our softball teams for their effort and sportsmanship at the tournaments in September. Our Intermediate boys team finished in 2nd place overall.

Thanks to coaches M. Snell, Mme S. Gasparotto, Mme Radford, Mme Hladysh, and Mme Wiebe.

The cross country team practices on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. The meet will be held at Mohawk Park this year on Friday, Oct. 14. Thanks to our coaches Mme V. Gasparotto, Mme Hexamer, Mme Dungey, Mme McEwen and M. Snell.



Soccer teams this year will both be co-ed (Jr. and Int.). Practices will be announced soon. Tournaments will be held at John Wright Field on October 17th for the junior team and on October 20 for the Intermediate team. Thanks to coaches Mme Hladysh, Mme Manfredi and Mme Guillemette.



Head Lice

Parents are asked to check their child's head regularly in order to keep head lice under control. We have some volunteer parents who come in to the school to help with head checks, as needed. If you are interested in volunteering to help with head lice checks, please contact the office. If a student is found to have live lice, parents will be contacted and asked to pick up the child immediately. Parents of students with nits only will be contacted and asked to pick up the child if possible. Before a child can be readmitted to school, it will be necessary for the lice to be treated and the nits completely removed, followed by a head check to be made by school staff. For more information on treating head lice, visit the Brant County Health Unit website at: <http://bit.ly/2dxDj6s>

School Visitors/Volunteers

All parents and visitors must enter at the school through the front door only after the 9:10 a.m. bell. Please do not enter or go directly to classrooms or portables. You are requested to sign in at the office each time that you enter and leave the school building. All volunteers must have a valid police check (good for 2 years). Contact the office for the appropriate forms if you need to apply for a new police check.

A Note From Our Public Health Nurse... Changes to School Immunizations

Starting in September, Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV) vaccine will be offered, free of charge, to all boys and girls in Grade 7.

HPV is a very common virus, which will infect most Canadians at least once in their lifetime. HPV often has no signs or symptoms, but it is responsible for almost all cases of cervical cancer, and causes other types of cancer in both men and women.

The best way to prevent HPV infection, and future complications, is vaccination. That's why the HPV vaccine has been recommended as part of Ontario's Routine Immunization Schedule since 2007. In the past HPV was only offered to grade 8 girls, but starting this fall the vaccine will also be publicly funded for boys and girls in grade 7. In total, grade 7 boys and girls will be offered three free vaccines at school clinics this year that protect them against the following diseases:

- Meningitis
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus

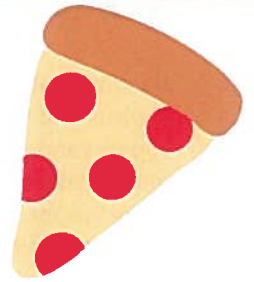
Permission forms for vaccinations have already been sent home. School clinics will be held in October, November and May/June. A school clinic calendar can be found on our website: www.bchu.org/schoolclinics. If you have questions, please call the Brant County Health Unit at 519-753-4937 ext. 451.

Dungeons and Dragons/Magic Cards

This club meets weekly during nutrition break in the library. Thanks to M. Mollon for running this activity. Students must have a signed permission form to participate.

Hot Lunch Due Dates

Pizza orders went home in September and were due back on Monday, October 3rd. Please remember that the due date for hot lunch orders is a firm date as orders need to be tallied and placed with our supplying restaurants. Hot lunch order forms are generally sent home with a least a week notice, and the completed form can be sent back immediately. Parents should be aware that orders received after the due date will not be included. If you are interested in volunteering to help with Pizza Days, please contact the school.



Setting a New Direction in Grand Erie

Grand Erie trustees approved a new strategic direction to guide the work we are doing. In the centre of this 2016-2020 Multi-Year Plan is SUCCESS for Every Student. We will achieve this through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations.

The indicators that will support our goal include Achievement, Well-Being, Equity, Environment, Technology and Community. For more information, visit www.granderie.ca/board/multi-year-plan



School Safety Procedures

We will be implementing 3 fire drills throughout the month of October. Following that, we will be conducting 1 lockdown drill this fall. These practices are mandatory for all schools in GEDSB.



Building Healthy Relationships

Healthy relationships provide children with a sense of security and stability; a sense of being valued and belonging; support and guidance to learn essential skills and understanding; and the ability to deal with stress. Here are some tips for supporting children:

- Connect positively with your children at every opportunity
- Relate to your child or teen in an age-appropriate way
- Help your children develop empathy and respect
- Help reduce the stress in their lives
- Be there: supervision matters
- Accept mistakes as learning opportunities
- Watch for signs of an unhealthy relationship

Remember positive parenting works.

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

Deliveries for Students

If you are delivering something for a student to the school office please put your child's name & teacher's name on it. We have several deliveries made to the office for students throughout the day. Your child should be coming to the office to check if the items they are expecting have been delivered. Please remind them that you will drop it off and for them to come down and check for it. Thank you for your cooperation.



Terry Fox Run

Thanks to all families who sent in donations for the Terry Fox Run. Our school raised \$1700 in total to support cancer research. As September 30th was a rainy day, students and staff will be participating in the run on Thursday, October 6th.

School Council

Nominations for voting positions on our school council were due September 22. The first school council meeting is on October 5th at 6:00 in the library. Childcare will be provided. All are welcome. Although our school council bylaws allow for 15 voting members, we welcome all members of our school community to attend and participate.

Important Information for Parents of Bused Students

You now must go online to check your child's bus information. (ALWAYS INFORM THE SCHOOL OF ANY CHANGES MADE)
For parents to connect, they can go through:

1. Board website (click on transportation link),
2. Go to www.stsbhn.ca and click on the "transportation information" link, or
3. Go directly to <https://www.transinfobhn.ca/> and save in your Favourites (since this is a secure site, may have to click on "continue to the web site" the first time)

If you make a change to your child's bus route at any time you MUST fill out the Transportation form TF001. Form are available from the office or you can find them on the school or Transportation website. The TF001 Form must be returned to the school for processing. DO NOT SEND it directly to transportation

IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT TAKING BUS HOME ON A PARTICULAR DAY: You are required to let the teacher know in writing by sending a note "That your child will be picked up and not taking the bus that day." Please include the bus #. We ask that you make your arrangements with your child before they come to school. Please do not call the school with bus changes for the day unless it is an emergency.

Students are only permitted to ride on the bus that they are assigned. Permission is not granted for parent or student requests to ride other buses that service Confederation.

As a result of the very high volume of daily parent notes and phone calls to change the bus arrangements for children at dismissal, we can only accept parent notes and phone calls until 1:00 pm on any given school day indicating that there will be a change (unless it is an absolute emergency). If you need to make a change after 1:00 pm, we ask that you not call but meet your child at the end of day, outside at the bus area, before they board the bus. Please let the teacher in charge of bussing and the bus driver know they will not be taking the bus home. Thank you for your cooperation!

Contact Dave Imre in the transportation department for any questions: 519-751-7532, ext. 282203 or Sharp Bus lines 519-751-3434.

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. The on-site parking at the school is reserved for staff parking only.

All students enter the playground through the gate along the sidewalk at the edge of the parking lot and bus loading zone. Parents may not park or drop off students in the bus loading zone. 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. Parking is prohibited on Ewing Drive. We ask for your cooperation in remaining respectful to our school neighbours when parking on the street. Refrain from using our neighbours’ driveways, and leave a 1m space between your parked car and driveways (City by-law). Please use the crosswalk in front of the school when crossing Ewing drive. A crossing guard is stationed at this area before and after school.

Please note that 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**. Parents picking up children at the end of the day, should meet their child at the Student Pick-up Area off the staff parking lot, which is fully supervised by school staff. Parents may wait along the sidewalk outside of the playground fence and gate.



Bus/Dismissal Procedures

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. JK/SK children are paired with a ‘Bus Buddy’, a student who rides the same bus and is an older student. The older student will escort the children from their Kindergarten classroom to the bus each day at dismissal and to the Kindergarten play area each day upon arrival at school. There is a teacher on duty to supervise the buses at the beginning and end of the school day.

Students will be dismissed from the parent pick-up area at the parking lot side of the school, not through the front doors, at the end of the day. Please note that Junior and Senior Kindergarten students who are being picked up will be at the parent pick up area by 3:20 daily (with teacher supervision). 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.

All parents of bused students must provide the school, the Board Transportation Office, and Sharp Bus line with accurate and up to date information. This is essential for bus drivers to know which bus the children are to take to and from school and the correct pick-up and drop-off points.

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.



