

ÉCOLE CONFÉDÉRATION

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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

septembre/September 2016

Bonne rentrée ! - Welcome Back!



Dear Confédération Families;

Welcome to the 2016/2017 school year! We are so excited to be in our new school! We hope that everyone had a restful and relaxing summer, and that you are ready for another year of great adventures in learning. As we become accustomed to the new school facility, we appreciate your patience and cooperation in navigating all of our new procedures. We look forward to inviting families to come and tour our new facility later this month. As well, we hope that you will be able to join us for Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 29 from 5:00-7:00. Our School Council has organized some delicious food from a variety of food trucks, as well as some school spirit items for purchase. Staff will be on hand and classroom visits will be available.

Yours in cooperation,

Mme A. Smith
Principal

Mme N. Norton
Vice-Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 14- JK/SK Bus Orientation Bus Safety Orientation and short bus ride.

Sept. 22 – School Council Nominations due to principal by 4:00 pm

Sept. 15 – Returns Current Info, Accident Declaration, Internet Permission

Sept. 16 – PA DAY – NO SCHOOL

Sept. 29– School Council Elections and Meet the Teacher Night

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

Oct. 19 & 20 – Picture days :

Oct. 19 for Grades 3-8

Oct. 20 for Grades JK-2

Nov. 23 – Picture retake day

September Newsletter Attachments

There are many important documents that come home at the beginning of each school year. Attached you will find the following documents, which you may keep for reference and information:

1. Student Accident Insurance. Please see the pamphlet attached to this newsletter for an application to have student accident insurance for your child. This insurance is highly recommended for dental accidents in particular. **These are sent directly to the insurance company. They do not get returned to the school.**
2. 2016-2017 School Year calendar
3. Code of Conduct for Bus Students
4. School Council Nomination Form (Due to the school by Sept. 22 @3:30)
5. School Handbook.

Additional documents will be sent home that **must be filled out, signed, and returned to the school:**

1. Current Information Sheets
2. Student Accident Declaration (required to attend trips)
3. Internet Use Permission Forms
4. Green Early Dismissal Form (sent with youngest/only)

These sheets will be sent home with each student. They are sent home annually to update the student information files for all students. It is vital that this information be updated each year to ensure emergency contact with parents in the event of an injury or problem. *Please look for these and return them to the school **before September 15h.** Your assistance is greatly appreciated.*



Please visit our new website for updates and information at:

granderie.ca/confederation

All newsletters, office forms, and school information will be found on the website. Remember to check the website regularly for updated information from the school and your child's teacher. After September, all news will be delivered electronically. Paper copies of the newsletter will be available upon request only (notify your child's teacher).

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.



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.

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 and we cannot remember who it belongs to! Your child should be coming to the office to check if it has 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.

Harassment Statement

The Grand Erie District School Board has a zero tolerance policy toward all forms of harassment. The Board is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free of harassment, which supports productivity and the personal goals of dignity and self-esteem of every individual. The Board expects all students, staff and visitors to behave in a respectful, courteous and appropriate manner at all times. The Board will respond to all forms of unacceptable behaviour in a manner consistent with the Board Policy / Procedure on Harassment. To view the policy, please visit the Board's website at <http://www.granderie.ca> and select the drop down menu titled Board.

School Hours at École Confédération

All elementary schools in The Grand Erie District School Board operate on a Balanced Day Schedule. The school day is organized in to three instructional blocks and two 40 minute nutritional breaks.

<u>Hours of Instruction</u>	<u>Nutrition/Fitness Breaks</u>
9:10 – 11:10	11:10- 11:50
11:50 – 1:30	1:30-2:10
2:10 - 3:30	
<u>Office Hours</u> 8:15 - 4:00	

The school playground is supervised from 8:50 a.m.-3:45 p.m. daily. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:50 a.m.

All students must remain on school property unless they have parent permission. Students are asked to remain on school property for the First Nutrition break (11:10-11:50). Those who have permission to leave the property for lunch will do so on the second nutrition break (1:30-2:10).

We expect that all students will display good manners and be respectful of each other during the Nutrition/Fitness breaks. Students must follow lunchroom routines under the supervision of school staff.

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.



Student Agendas

Student agendas are an important tool for parent-teacher communication. They are an important part of the learning skills students use to assist with organization. Each student in Grades 1-8 will be provided with a student agenda. We ask for a \$5.00 donation to help offset the cost of this important learning tool. Donations can be sent to the classroom teacher.

Peanut/Nut Aware School

A few reminders about food policies at École Confédération:



* This is 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.

News for Parents-Sign Up for Remind

For on-going reminders and updates, sign up for École Confédération's **REMIND** account. If you were already signed up to our Fairview account, you will continue to receive updates-no need to sign up again!

- 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.



School Council News

School Council Nominations due to principal by

3:30 PM on Sept. 22, 2016

Elections on Sept 29th at "Meet the Teacher Night"

The School Council is the voice of the parents to the school administration. We act in an advisory capacity to the principal and school administration as we all work towards improving the quality of the school experience for our children.

Throughout the year School Council ran the hot lunch program and other fundraising activities.

Meetings are usually held the third Wednesday of every month at the school at 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

On September 29th, we will be holding our nominations and election of the Council and we invite any interested parents to join us. This is open to all parents of students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. Nomination forms can be found on the school website and in the office.

Family/Student Handbook

A copy of the École Confédération handbook will be sent home to each family. An electronic copy is available on the school website. All relevant information regarding school routines, transportation, expectations of students, etc., is provided in this document.

Fire Drills and School Lock Down

In accordance with the Fire Department and GEDSB Policy on School Lock Down, your children will be involved in 3 Fire Drills in the Fall and Spring months and Lock Down practices in the Fall and Spring.

A School Lock Down requires than an announcement be made to staff to secure our students in their classrooms behind locked classroom door

Parents should not be surprised if you child arrives home from school describing their experience in this process to you.



Accident Insurance Requirements for Students

Student accident coverage is recommended and voluntary for parents to consider for their child. It is important for parents to understand that the Board does not provide insurance for students against any accidental death, disability, dismemberment or medical expenses that might occur as a result of accident during school activities, including sporting events and field trips.

Insure My Kids protection plan is made available to parents, at low cost, to provide benefits for dental injuries and other accidents which may occur through participating in high-risk activities. In fact, there are options in the package for coverage outside of school hours including holidays and weekends. Please see the brochure for information or visit www.insuremykids.com.

Many parents may have accidental coverage as part of their employers benefit plan. It's important for parents to review their plans to make sure they have the necessary coverage for high-risk activities. Parents may want to consider purchasing additional personal coverage to reduce the anxiety associated from an injury to their child.

Grand Erie District School Board requires that all parents declare whether or not they have accident insurance. A declaration form is being sent home at the beginning of the school year for parent/guardian review and signature.

School Security



All parents and school visitors are reminded that it is the policy of The Grand Erie District School Board that all parents and visitors enter the school through the front door and sign in and report their presence in the school or on school property to the office staff AT ALL TIMES.

We have security cameras at our school entrance, and at various points around the perimeter of the school. All school entrances from the playground and parking lot are locked at all times. These measures are put in place in ALL schools to provide as safe as possible a learning environment for all children.

* Please note that all portable classrooms and school staff have a key pad access to the school at any time throughout the school day.

Student Pick-Up and Drop Off

Please note that students are welcome to arrive at school any time after 8:50 a.m. when a teacher will be on duty to supervise. Children who arrive prior to 8:50 a.m. will NOT be supervised on school property.

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 will 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.

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.



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.





BUS # AND ZONE

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

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.

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.

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.

<http://www.stsbhn.org/>

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.

Important Information for Parents of Buser Students

You now must go online to check your child's bus information. (ALWAYS INFORM THE SCHOOL OF ANY CHANGES MADE)
TF001 Transportation Form must be returned to school.
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, There are bussing forms that will need to be submitted. You can get the forms 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.





**Growing Excellence...
Inspiring Success**

Grand Erie District School Board

Head Office: 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3
Telephone: (519) 756-6301 Fax: (519) 756-9181

Students and Accidents

The Board takes every precaution to provide a safe learning environment for students, but accidents can and do happen. Some families have private or workplace accident insurance which is able to respond to costs arising from injuries. However, many families do not.

Under the Education Act, Ontario school boards are empowered to:

“provide, by contract with an insurer under the Insurance Act, accident and life insurance for pupils, the cost of which is to be paid on a voluntary basis by the parents or guardians.”
R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2, s. 176, par. 4.

The Grand Erie District School Board regularly reviews student accident insurance policies provided by various companies and every September makes available a package with comprehensive, low-cost options for student insurance.

The “Limited Plan” provides coverage for school days only, and can be purchased annually for \$6.00 per child and includes 10 year and beyond dental benefit coverage (note- this plan is not available online). Family discounts are available and plans can also be purchased for post-secondary and mature students and, in some cases, for visiting or immigrant students. More complete packages include 365-day per year coverage and the “Platinum Plan” also has a travel component.

Coverage may be purchased at any time during the school year. As the cost is very competitive, it will remain the same regardless of when it was purchased during the school year. The best value for parents always exists in purchasing it in September. Coverage becomes effective at the date of purchase, so injuries sustained prior to this are not eligible for compensation.

It is important for parents to understand that the Board does not provide insurance for students against any accidental death, disability, dismemberment or medical expenses that might occur as a result of accidents during school activities, including sporting events and field trips.

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A PACKAGE, please

- 1) contact your child's school
- 2) contact the Board office (519-756-6306, x-281169)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, require assistance, or prefer to enroll online or by phone please contact the Client Service Department at Reliable Life Insurance through one of the following options:

Telephone:	800-463-5437 (toll free) 905-523-6525
Email:	insuremykids@reliablelifeinsurance.com
Web:	www.insuremykids.com
Postal Address:	Reliable Life Insurance Company, Student Accident Department P.O. Box 557, Hamilton, ON L8N 3K9
Hours of Operation:	Monday – Friday (8:30am-4:30pm ET)

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BUS STUDENTS

1. Follow the directions of your driver (as well as monitor and/or aide).
2. Be at your bus stop at least 5 minutes before your scheduled pick-up time.
3. Stay seated while the bus is in motion.
4. Horseplay and other disruptive behaviour are not to occur on the bus.
5. No smoking, eating, and drinking while on the bus.
6. Keep the centre aisle of the bus clear at all times.
7. Keep complete body inside the bus at all times.
8. Weapons, any illegal substances, or animals are not allowed on the bus.
9. Profane, abusive, threatening, or disrespectful language and/ or behaviour towards anyone on the bus or on the street will not be tolerated.
10. Keep books, lunch boxes, and other bulky items on your lap.
11. Students are responsible for any deliberate damage done to the bus.
12. Whenever possible, leave the last row of seats vacant.
13. Respect each other on the bus at all times. Bullying behaviour will not be tolerated.
14. Personal radios, CDs and MP3 players with ear phones may be used on the bus.
15. Personal radios, CDs and MP3 players with speakers may NOT be used on the bus.

The complete policies pertaining to "Responsibility of Students" (004) and the consequences of not abiding by those rules "Progressive Discipline for Infractions on a School Bus" (025) are listed on the STSBHN's website – www.STSBHN.ca

THE GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
École Confédération SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

.....

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE #: _____

BUSINESS PHONE #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I am the parent/guardian of _____
(Name of child at Confédération)

☐ I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent representative on the École Confédération School Council. I understand the role and responsibilities of a member of the School Council.

Candidate's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Received by _____ Time _____ Date _____

FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO PRINCIPAL BEFORE 4:00 PM ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

Nomination Form Receipt

The nomination for parent representative for the School Council for École Confédération has been received.

(Candidate Name)

(School Official)

(Date)

