

WALSH PUBLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal: Nancy Norton

Vice Principal: Amie Salembier-Wright

Office Coordinators:

Sandra Vandendriessche

Wendy Siry-Ramirez (Judy Weller on leave)

Staff:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Huszczo, J. | JK/SK |
| Morris, B. | JK/SK FI |
| Watt, N. | JK/SK FI |
| House, C. | SK/1 |
| DeSmedt | 1FI |
| Walker, E. | 1/2 |
| Chmiel, C | 1/2 FI |
| Bilinsky, A. | 2/3 |
| McCallum, B. | 3/4 |
| Meulemeester, M. | 2/3 FI |
| Lapierre, H. | 3/4 FI |
| Backus, M. | 4/5 |
| Schott, J | 4/5 FI |
| Kuelh, C | 5/6 |
| Grozelle, C. | 6/7 FI |
| Jarvis, L. | 6/7 |
| Meulemeester, D. | 8 |
| Driedger, C. | 7/8 FI |
| Bryson, K. | LRT |
| Carter, C. | Prep |
| Hamm, K. | Prep |
| Van Leeuwen, T | Prep |
| Durette, D | French |
| Wuelleman, A | DECE |
| Gallant, N. | DECE |
| Hare, K. | EA |
| Jenereaux, K | EA |
| Walker, K | EA |
| Ward, K. | EA |
| Westlake, D. | EA |
| Scolon, J. | Paid Supervisor |

November 2025

October was packed with excitement and achievement at Walsh!

Our Intermediate students braved the rain and mud at the Norfolk County Road Race, and many student entered their art work and crafts into the Fair—way to go, Whirlwinds! Both our Junior and Intermediate soccer teams had stellar performances: the Juniors placed 3rd across the Grand Erie board, and the Intermediate co-ed team won the B Division Championship! Our cross-country team showed incredible sportsmanship and brought home four pennants across multiple grades.

Students have also been busy training as bus safety patrollers and participating in a variety of engaging clubs, including Sports Club, Lego & Minecraft Club, Eco-Club, and the always-popular Swifty Club. We also celebrated fall with a pumpkin giveaway for every student—thanks to Scotlynn SweetPac Growers!

November marks the halfway point of Term 1, and with it comes the release of Progress Reports for students in Grades JK–8. These reports provide insight into your child's development in learning skills, work habits, and overall progress toward curriculum expectations. Reports will be sent home on **November 7th**.

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for the **evening of Thursday, November 13th** and the **morning of Friday, November 14th**. Appointment times will be included with your child's Progress Report. We encourage all families to attend and connect with their child's teacher. If you're unavailable during the scheduled times, please reach out to your child's teacher to arrange an alternative meeting. And don't forget: the Scholastic Book Fair is coming November 11–14th, with open hours on during parent-teacher interview on the 13th and 14th.

As we reflect on the progress made this fall, students are encouraged to set meaningful goals for Term 1 that support their continued growth and success!

Yours in cooperation,



WALSH PUBLIC SCHOOL

933 St. John's Road West,
Simcoe N3Y 4K5

519-426-3716

granderie.ca/schools/walsh

SCHOOL HOURS FOR BALANCED DAY

Day Start: 8:55 a.m.

Instructional Block: 8:55 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.

Outdoor Recess: 10:55 a.m.

Nutritional Break: 11:15 a.m.

Instructional Block: 11:35 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Outdoor Recess: 1:15 p.m.

Nutritional Break: 1:55p.m.

Instructional Block: 1:55p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Day End: 3:15p.m.

- ◇ All family members and visitors to the school will not be permitted to enter the school unless you have a scheduled appointment. Please call **519-426-3716** to make an appointment. All doors to the school will remain locked.
- ◇ Students who arrive late to school must buzz the office to be let into the school and stop by the office to be signed in.
- ◇ A parent/guardian who requires a student to leave the school before dismissal time must call the school ahead of time. Please state your name and who you are picking up. All students must be picked up at the office door. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of all of our students.

A Friendly Reminder About Office Phone Use

We kindly remind families that the school office is a very busy place, and our phone lines must remain available for urgent matters only. Students are not permitted to use the office phone for personal calls, including arranging play-dates, requesting forgotten items, or having personal conversations.

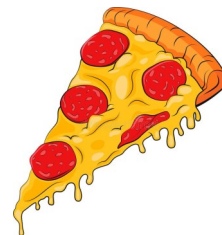
If a student needs to contact home for an essential reason, office staff will make the call on their behalf when time permits. We appreciate your understanding and support in helping us keep the office running smoothly and efficiently for everyone.

HOT LUNCHES

- ⇒ Monday's - Panzerottis from The Catherwood and the Kiln - \$6.00 each
- ⇒ Wednesday's – Pitas from Pita Pit - \$6.00 each
- ⇒ Friday's – Pizza from The Catherwood and the Kiln - \$3.00 per slice

November Hot Lunches will be due on November 15th. **No late orders will be accepted.**

Please contact the office at 519.426.3716 if you need assistance with schoolcashonline.



SAVE THE DATE

| | |
|-------------|---|
| November 3 | Kindergarten Registration Opens Online |
| November 5 | Grade 8 trip to SCS |
| November 7 | Progress Reports Home |
| November 10 | Photo Retake Day |
| November 11 | Remembrance Day – Student Assembly |
| | Book Fair Set Up |
| November 13 | Teacher Interview Evening |
| | Book Fair Evening |
| November 14 | PD DAY – Teacher Interview |
| | Book Fair (morning) |
| November 17 | The school council meeting schedule has been postponed to Monday, December 1st |
| November 18 | Simcoe Composite School Parent Night: Doors open for tours at 6pm, meeting starts at 6:30pm |
| November 19 | Vision & Dental Screening – notified students |
| | Grade 8 Trip to Valley Heights |
| | Delhi District Parent Night – timing TBA |
| November 20 | Vision & Dental Screening – notified students |
| November 26 | Grade 8 trip to DSS |
| | Valley Heights Parent Night - timing TBA |
| December 1 | School Council Meeting: 5:30pm |
| December 11 | Little Shoppers Holiday Sale & Winter Open House 5:30-7:00pm |
| December 17 | School Wide Spaghetti Lunch served by School Council 2 nd break |
| December 19 | Last School Day of 2025 |

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open:

Registration is now open either online or in-person. For online registrations there is a two-step process:

Step 1

Parents/caregivers can register students online on Grand Erie's website under [Programs & Services](#)

Parents/caregivers may request and have a fillable PDF Registration Form sent to them and, then once complete, send it back to the school. If you would like a paper copy please contact the school at 519.426.3716

Step 2 – Enrolment Registration Verification

Parents/caregivers will be contacted by the school to confirm their registration documentation and attend a new to Kindergarten Orientation in the Spring.

For **French Immersion**, Families can register for three points of entry JK, SK and Grade 1, The **deadline for new registration to French Immersion is Friday February 6, 2026**

To learn more about the French Immersion Program visit: [French Language](http://www.granderie.ca/programs-services/french-language-programs) : www.granderie.ca/programs-services/french-language-programs

Fundraising Updates:

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser: We are selling Krispy Kreme donuts (A box of a dozen for \$15) to raise funds for new gym mats. Our goal is to raise \$2700 for new wall-mounted gym mats, and start working towards the purchase of a new high jump mat. Orders can be placed using schoolcashonline or by contacting the office before November 2nd.
Pick-Up Details: *During Parent-Teacher Interviews: November 13th or 14th
*Not attending interviews? No problem! If you'd like your order sent home with your child on November 13th, please contact the office in advance.
Thank you for supporting our school and helping us make our gym a safer space for all students!

Pumpkins

We're incredibly grateful to Scotlynn SweetPac Growers for generously providing pumpkins for all our students. Thanks to your support, we raised \$295, which will go toward purchasing an outdoor seating table for our primary students to enjoy.
We'd love to showcase your pumpkin masterpieces on our electronic photo frame! Please email your photos to: WalshPumpkinContest@outlook.com



World's Finest Chocolate Bars

Our Fall chocolate bar fundraiser was successful! Our top class was Mme. Watt's kindergarten class, who have won the task of figuring out how to share a 5lb World's Finest Chocolate Bar! Our overall seller and winner of an instant print camera was Bennett!

Thank you to the Britt Club for their \$300 donation, which will be used to help reduce the cost of field trips.

Sports Updates

We had a wonderful cross country season. At our regional meet on October 17th, Walsh came home with 4 pennants (Grade 4 Boys, Grade 5 Girls, Grade 5 Boys and Grade 7 boys), which resulted in 24 students qualifying for CAGE.

Walsh is the hosting school for CAGE Cross Country, which was held on October 24th at EcoAdventures. Over 600 students from across the board participated! We had 24 Walsh students run, and another 25 come to volunteer at the event! Many students has a personal best—including special mentions to Will B who was 3rd in all of Grand Erie for Grade 7 boys—incredible!

Both these events were organized by Mr. Vanleeuwen and could not be possible without his dedication!



Words Matter Campaign Launching at Walsh Public School

Walsh Public School is proud to join the Words Matter Campaign, a powerful initiative led by Harmony Movement and supported by the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC). This campaign is designed to take meaningful action against harmful language and identity-based bullying, fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

By participating, our school will gain access to valuable resources, including:

- Age-appropriate workshops for students, staff, and families
- Practical guides for responding to harmful language

Tools to promote respect, empathy, and belonging
On October 30th, six student leaders attended training in Brantford with teacher representative Mme. Grozelle, this group is leading our commitment to creating a culture where every word counts and every student feels seen, heard, and valued.

Little Shoppers Holiday Sale



We are having our Little Shoppers Holiday Sale again this year on December 11th. Students will have the opportunity to bring a toonie or two from their piggy banks and pick out gifts for loved ones!

We are looking for donations for items to add to our Holiday shop, so clean out your basements, attics and send in your unneeded items that are new and in great shape!

We need your help to make our shop possible. Please drop off all donations to the school by December 9th. Donations can be:

- ⇒ New or gently-used gifts for people of all ages
- ⇒ Toys, jewelry, household items, Ornaments, candles, miscellaneous items
- ⇒ NEW scarves, mitts or hats
- ⇒ Gift bags and tape

No clothing or opened personal hygiene products please! Please have all items in a box or bag clearly marked with "Little Shoppers Holiday Sale" on them!

Feel free to spread the word to friends and neighbours who may be looking for a meaningful place to donate their items, and you can bring donations to parent-teacher interviews November 13/14th.

Menstrual Equity Campaign

Access to menstrual products can be a considerable barrier for students that cannot afford them. Walsh continues to identify providing menstrual products as an equity initiative to help support students. Free menstrual products continue to be available to all students in our school. Products are available in our intermediate washrooms so that they are not required to ask for one from staff.

Remembrance Day:

November 11th marks the day World War One ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, back in 1918. People remember those who were lost in the war by holding a two-minute silence and by wearing a red poppy.

Walsh students will attend a school assembly to recognize Remembrance Day on the morning of November 11th.

Grade 7 & 8 Students Visit the Holocaust Museum in Toronto

On October 6th, our Grade 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to visit the **Toronto Holocaust Museum**, where they engaged in a powerful learning experience about one of the most significant events in world history.

Through interactive exhibits, survivor testimonies, and guided tours, students deepened their understanding of the Holocaust and its lasting impact.

During their visit, students learned:

- **The importance of personal stories:** They heard firsthand accounts from survivors, which helped humanize the history and highlight the resilience of those who lived through unimaginable circumstances.
- **The dangers of antisemitism and hate:** Exhibits illustrated how prejudice and propaganda contributed to the rise of the Nazi regime and the persecution of millions.
- **The role of upstanders:** Students explored stories of individuals and communities who resisted injustice and helped protect victims, reinforcing the importance of courage and moral responsibility.

This visit was a meaningful extension of our social studies curriculum and encouraged thoughtful reflection on empathy, justice, and the importance of remembering history.

Thank you to all the families who arranged for their students to be picked up from school later in the evening to make this trip possible!



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Halloween Fun at Walsh



Student Absences / Safe Arrival Application

Parents are asked to use the Safe Arrival app to report their child's absence

All students who arrive late or who leave early for appointments must sign in or out at school office. Parents picking up their children may not enter the school. Please understand that during school hours, there may be times where no one is immediately available to answer the door. If you are arriving late, please do not leave your children unattended, and please be patient.

Student Absences / Safe Arrival Application:

At Walsh, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are introducing **a new**, more efficient student absence reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

- 1) Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
- 2) Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
- 3) Call the toll-free number **1-833-557-9420** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Starting **immediately** please report absences in advance using **SafeArrival** instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

Staff will begin using the **SafeArrival** notifications to let you know if your student is absent (when you haven't reported the absence in advance).

If you have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.



School Council:

At Walsh, we know that parent engagement is a key driver of student success. Research consistently shows that when parents are actively involved in their child's education, students are more motivated, achieve higher grades, develop stronger social skills, and are more likely to pursue further education.

Great schools become even better when families and educators work together. Whether it's attending school events, joining committees, or simply staying connected with your child's learning, your involvement matters.

We invite all parents and guardians to join us at our next School Council Meeting on:

Monday, December 1st at 5:30 p.m. It's a great opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and help shape the future of our school.

For more information, please contact our School Council Chair, Leanne Rapley, at: leanne_rapley@hotmail.com

Let's continue building a strong, supportive school community — together!



Volunteering at Walsh Volunteers must provide the original copy of a Police Record Check that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search subject to availability, completed within the previous six (6) months and acceptable to the Board, prior to commencement of duties. Police Record Checks will remain valid for a three year period from the date they are received by the school. Police Check forms are available online at <https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=147&lng=en>

The school office can provide you with a letter stating that you are applying for a police check to meet the requirements for volunteering at Walsh, so there will be no cost to you.

Walsh is a Nut-Aware School

A friendly reminder to all families that Walsh Public School is a nut-aware environment. We appreciate your continued cooperation in helping us keep all students safe.

Please ensure that your child(ren) do not bring any nuts or nut products to school, including:

- Peanut butter
 - Peanut oil
 - Nutella
 - Baked goods containing nuts
 - Foods cooked in peanut oil (e.g., some home-style potato chips)
- Even trace amounts can pose serious risks to students with allergies.



Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all!

Parent, Caregiver & Community Member Concerns

If you have a concern, Grand Erie offers a Parent Concern Guided Walkthrough and an illustrated flowchart to help you understand the best steps to take. These tools are designed to promote respectful, solution-focused communication between families and school staff.

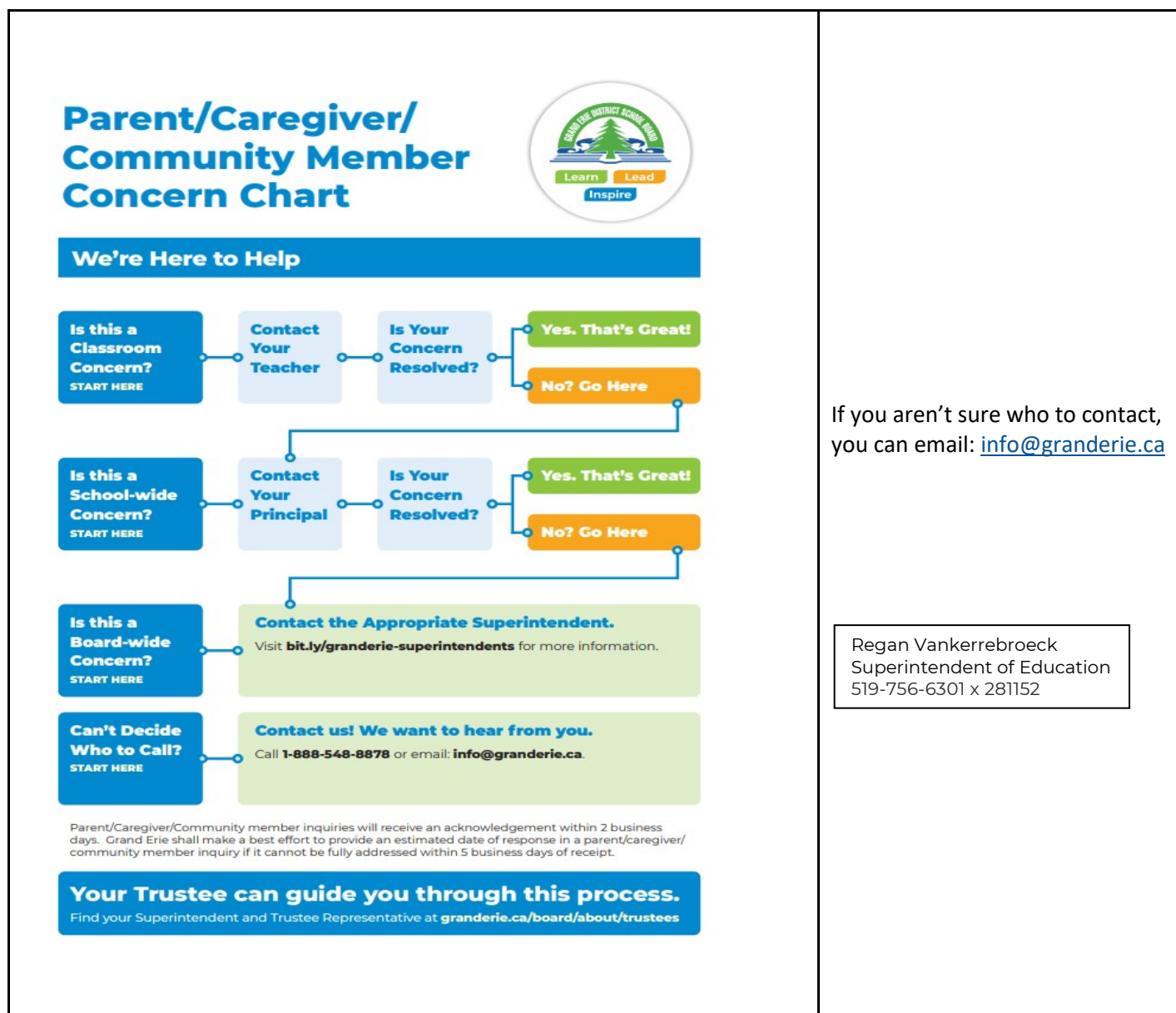
Walsh Also has the Talking Locker button on the school website: Located at the bottom of the Walsh Public School website, the Talking Locker is a digital suggestion box where students, parents, and community members can anonymously share feedback or concerns with school administration. It's a great way to contribute to a safe and positive school environment. Please note:

- It is not monitored 24/7.
- For urgent matters, call 911.
- For school-related issues, contact the school directly during office hours

Transportation concerns? Please note that Walsh Public School is not responsible for managing or supervising student transportation. All bussing services are coordinated by Student Transportation Services of Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN). If you have questions or concerns regarding transportation services, please contact STSBHN directly:

Phone: 519-751-7532 or Email: transportation@stsbhn.ca

For route-specific concerns, our board coordinator for bussing is John Schut, who can be reached at: Email: jschut@stsbhn.ca or Phone: **519-751-7532 x 2**



Walsh will also be a donation site for Coats for Kids. If you have an old coat that you would like to donate please bring it in during Parent-Teacher interviews November 13 & 14th. The Rotary Club will have a donation box at the office, and will collect coats for this event.

This event is open to all families, and is a great place to get a new-to-you winter jacket!

COATS FOR KIDS



Do you have gently worn children's winter coats? We invite you to donate them and support those in need within Norfolk & Haldimand. Peerless Cleaners will take care of cleaning the coats.

We need sizes ranging from babies/toddlers to teenagers. Please drop them off at any Peerless Cleaners location or your local participating school between

November 3 until November 17

Coats will be distributed on **Saturday, November 22 at First Baptist Church in Simcoe 9:00 -10:30 am.**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Let's keep our kids warm this winter!

Toddlers to Teenagers



A Rotary project for the
past 25 years



Rotary
Norfolk Sunrise



Gratefully acknowledging
our partners

