

# WALSH PUBLIC SCHOOL



**SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2020 EDITION**

## Daily COVID-19 Screening

All Grand Erie staff and students are required to conduct daily self-assessments before arriving at school. Use the Ontario COVID-19 School Screening tool here:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

## Fundraising

Grand Erie is now allowing schools to do fundraising as long as there are no touch points. We are working with fundraising companies and should have something set up soon.

In the meantime if you would like to make a donation to the snack program or to the school, we have set up a donation on schoolcashionline. We have had a number of additional costs this year (e.g. clipboards for all students, separate bins for students). We really appreciate any and all donations.

## Lunch Supervisor

We have been given funding to hire an extra lunch supervisor at Walsh. Times are from 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.-2 p.m. daily. The hourly rate is \$14.00 per hour plus 4% vacation pay. If interested please email [heather.robinson@granderie.ca](mailto:heather.robinson@granderie.ca) for more information.



Walsh Public School turned 60 this year! To celebrate we are going to have a 1960s themed day on Friday, November 27 so dress your students up in 60s fashions for the day. We will have 60s activities for the students to do in the afternoon (e.g. arts activities, trivia etc.) More details will follow. Stay tuned!

## Principal's Message

First of all we would like to welcome 15 of our students back from the Virtual Learning Academy. We are excited to have you rejoin us at Walsh and are looking forward to learning and growing with you.

It is now the third month of school and all of us at Walsh would like to express how proud we are of our students and school community. Our students have done exceptionally well with wearing masks when required. Very few masks have ended up lost, so students are doing a good job of managing masks and belongings. Students are also staying with their classroom cohorts in designated play areas and new friendships among classmates are being formed. Students are also doing an excellent job of hand washing/hand rubbing. Most importantly they have faced all of the changes this year with a positive attitude and we all really enjoy watching them laugh, learn and play together!

Thank you to our parents for maintaining distance and/or wearing masks when dropping off your students. A reminder to use the designated drop off area by the water pump house (do not pull in to staff parking spots please).

**Walsh Public School Council  
Principal's Report  
Thursday, October 15, 2020**

<b>ACHIEVEMENT</b>	
Progress Reports	To be sent home on Tuesday, November 10. Interviews are Thursday, November 12 from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. and Friday, November 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Interviews will likely be held virtually on Microsoft Teams or by phone.
Digital Resources	Literacy: We have 50 students in Grades 2 to 8 signed up for the Lexia Reading program. Students have to be reading below grade level to qualify. Most classes will be getting student license for Grade 1-4 Je Lis! Je Lis! (French Immersion) and Literacy Pro (Grade 1 to 5). Numeracy: We will have licenses for Zorbis (Grade 1-2/3) and Knowledgehook (Grade 3-8)
New Math Curriculum	Teachers are implementing the new math curriculum and are attending virtual workshops in order to learn more about how to deliver curriculum. A portion of each monthly staff meeting will be dedicated toward math professional development.
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	
Current Extra-Curriculars	All are currently on hold as per board direction.
Halloween	Activities that follow COVID guidelines are being planned for students. Staff and students are not permitted to bring in treats to share so we will have some special "orange" snacks provided by the Snack Program. Students choosing to wear costumes must follow guidelines. Further detail will be sent to parents in an email on Friday, October 16.
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	
Physical	Students are assigned by classroom cohorts to different areas of the yard. Classes rotate every three weeks to a new spot. Areas are marked by pylons. Students have been very diligent about playing in their own areas. Equipment is disinfected by teachers at the end of each day. Waste Reduction Week is October 19-25. School has resumed recycling program, following COVID safety protocols for collection.
Classroom	The parent deadline to switch learning modes was October 13. We have 13 students returning to in-school learning from the Virtual Learning Academy.
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Orange Shirt Day: Most classes learned about residential schools and many staff and students wore orange on Sept. 30 Pride Flag: The Pride Flag was delivered in the spring and is hung in the main foyer. The flag symbolizes that Walsh is an accepting and inclusive school.	
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	
Student tablets	Ten new tablets were ordered to be used by students who most benefit from regular use of assistive technology.
BrightSpace	All classrooms have BrightSpace set up. This is how most teachers are sharing work for students who are absent (teachers will also email or send work home with a sibling)
<b>WELL-BEING</b>	
Student Well-being	Students in Madame Lapierre's Grade 3 FI class and Mrs. Bilinsky's Grade 3 English class are participating in a program called Super Self-Regulation that is being led by our Child and Youth Worker. The program helps students to identify feelings (e.g. stress) and give strategies to deal with them. Many teachers are implementing programs such as MindUp and using other resources that focus on mental health and well-being.
COVID Symptoms	Symptoms were updated as of October 1. As a result absenteeism has gone down. The number of students being sent home has been reduced significantly. Parents are doing the screening and keeping students home who display symptoms.

# November

2020

Subtitle

## Remembrance Day

This Remembrance Day students and staff will recognize the significance of the day in the classrooms.. We have had poppies dropped off from the Legion and we will be giving stickers out to younger students and poppies with pins out to our older students. We will not be collecting money this year but will make a donation from the school to the Port Rowan Legion.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 First day for students returning from VLA.	3	4 Pajama Day for all students and staff	5 Snack Program	6	7
8	9	10 Progress Reports go home	11 Remembrance Day Services in classrooms	12 Snack Program Progress Report Interviews	13 P.A. Day Progress Report Interviews	14
15	16 Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week	17	18	19 Snack Program	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Snack Program	27 60s day Celebrating the 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Walsh Public School	28
29	30					