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granderie.ca/cobblestone/

Principal

Cam MacDonald

Vice-Principal

Lisa DeGraaf

Office Staff

Stephanie Rylance
Erin Van Ry, Tracy Rayfield

BELL TIMES

Supervision on School Yard
begins at 8:25 a.m.

Learning Block 1 - 8:45 a.m. –
10:45 a.m.

Nutrition Break - 10:45 a.m. –
11:25 a.m.

Learning Block 2 - 11:25 a.m.
– 1:05 p.m.

Nutrition Break - 1:05 p.m. –
1:45 p.m.

Learning Block 3 - 1:45 p.m. –
3:05 p.m.

Message from the Principal

I know everyone is saying it already, but I also cannot believe September is over and here we are in October!

We would like to thank everyone for their patience, understanding and perseverance as we navigated through our reorganization. We would like to welcome Mrs. Capriz and Mr. Joynt to the Cobblestone team!

Current information packages and school forms are currently active online through School Cash Online and the Parent Portal. Thank you to our families for completing these important forms. If you have not yet been able to do this, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you encounter any difficulties or have questions, please reach out to our secretary team in the main office.

As we approach the Thanksgiving weekend holiday, I hope you will all have the opportunity to relax, refresh and take a moment to reflect on all we have to be thankful for.

Cam MacDonald

Principal



School Council

Our first School Council meeting for the 2023-24 school year happened on Thursday, October 5th. At this meeting voting members selected their executive. Your 2023-24 Council is: Uyen Brockway (Chair), Litsa Nikolis (Treasurer), Preeti Sharma (Secretary), Kay Macdonald, Forrest Vieira, Mandy Young, Arooj Shaikh, Alan Hunter, Lindsay Plumstead, Sara Darling, Sue Nash, Wendy Speers, and Erin Taylor

Student Nutrition Program

Our snack program is up and running. Each day, all students have access to healthy snacks if they are interested.

We are thankful for the support of Brant Food for Thought for providing funding for this program.

We will participate in Crunch Day on November 1st, as part of our fundraising requirements for the snack program. Each student will be provided with an apple for this event. Donations for this event, and general donations to the snack program can be made through School Cash Online soon. More information will come via email blast closer to the date.

Thank you to Mandy Young, Kay Macdonald, and their team of volunteers for their contributions to the program. If you are available to volunteer with the snack program (before school), please contact the office.

Halloween

Some classes may participate in Halloween activities on October 31. Teachers will share plans for their class. A reminder that any treats sent to school must be nut free. In addition, the Brant County Health Unit requires all food served in a school be prepared in either a commercial or health unit inspected kitchen. We are not permitted to share items that are baked/prepared at home.

Costumes: Students must avoid using identities and cultures as costumes. This includes appropriative costumes/cultural stereotypes (i.e., cultural garments), black/brown face, transphobic costumes (i.e., man dressed as a woman), body-shaming and objectifying costumes, and costumes that joke about situations that have caused harm (i.e., COVID pandemic). Such costumes perpetuate stereotypes and can cause harm that can further marginalize and oppress community members. As an alternative to a costume, students may also wear orange and black.

Head Lice

Parents are asked to check their child's head regularly in order to keep head lice under control. The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes pediculosis is not a health or education issue but is a community concern and a social nuisance. Pediculosis needs to be managed in the best interest of students through the partnership of parent(s)/guardian(s), students and the school community. The treatment and eradication of head lice is ultimately the parent(s)/guardian(s)' responsibility. "Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice." (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention). Brant County Health Unit website at: <http://bit.ly/2dxDj6s>

When a case of headlice is detected in our school, we will follow the procedures outlined in SO101:

[SO101: Pediculosis \(Headlice\)](#)

This procedure includes a checklist that families must complete and return to school whenever a case of headlice has been identified.

Student Pick-Up and Drop Off

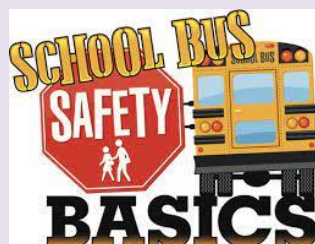
Students are welcome to arrive at school any time after 8:25 a.m. when a teacher will be on duty to supervise. Children should not arrive prior to this time due to the absence of supervision by staff. Families will need to park on the side streets adjacent to the school and walk students to this area. Pick up at the end of the day will continue to begin at 3:05 in the same location as drop off at arrival. Parent parking for drop off or pick up is not permitted in the parking lot or directly in front of the school on Grandville Circle.

Walking routes should be planned to utilize the crossing guards an/or crosswalks at stop signs. It is not recommended that pedestrians cross directly in front of the school as this area can get very crowded and busy with cars and buses. Please practice physical distancing when dropping children off. It is recommended that families wear a mask in the drop off and pick up zone in the event that physical distancing is not possible.

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.

School Bus Evacuation Training

Soon all students will take part in School Bus Evacuation Training. This training builds students' awareness of the safety routines on a school bus in case of any emergencies. Primary classes will be buddied up with Intermediate students to help them through the training.



School Messenger

In order to maintain communication with our school community, we use the School Messenger service which allows us to send voicemail and email messages. When updating your child's current information sheet at the beginning of the school year, please ensure that you include an updated email address. **Remember to check your junk or clutter folders for any messages.** For bus notifications, please sign up for notifications on the transportation website (details are outlined later in this letter). All newsletters and school information will be posted on our website: <https://granderie.ca/schools/cobblestone>

All news will be delivered electronically, through School Messenger email. Paper copies of the newsletter will be available upon request only (notify your child's teacher).

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 15 or more consecutive days, 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 board website under Procedure SO117.

Boomerang Lunches and Water Bottles

With goal of waste reduction and helping our amazing custodial team attend to the increased workload around keeping the school sanitary, we will be continuing with boomerang lunches this year. Students are asked to take home any recycling or trash created as a result of food consumed for lunch. Families may consider sending an extra, small bag for students to collect these items in or students should use an empty, reusable container once they have consumed the food inside. We thank you for your support of this process as it contributes to the important work of maintaining a working and learning environment that is safe for all

Please ensure your child has a refillable water bottle while they are at school. Our water bottle refilling stations are open for use.

School Cell Phone Policy

Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school; however, **we ask that all cell phones stay in secure location with the classroom teacher throughout the school day.** Should a student need to contact a parent/guardian, we ask that they go through the office to phone home. Students are only permitted to use cell phones with teacher permission (should they need to use it for accessing internet, etc.). Students who do not follow the cell phone policy may be asked to take their phone to the office for safekeeping and to ensure that the phone is not a distraction to learning. We appreciate your support in enforcing the cell phone policy here at Cobblestone Elementary School.



School Zone Safety

Students and parents are encouraged to plan their walking routes to make use of signed cross walks and are reminded to stay back from the road while they are waiting to cross with the crossing guard.

Motorists in school areas are asked to drive with care and be aware of school crossings. Obey all traffic signs and signals and proceed through the crossing only when everyone - including the Crossing Guard - has left the roadway. This is the law, which promotes safety for everyone.

Crossing Guards are an important part of our community and help keep children safe. Please respect the Crossing Guards, slow down and keep a watchful eye for children.



Hot Lunch and Pizza Days starting soon!!

- Pizza days begin on Oct.17th and will run every Tuesday. Orders are due the week before
- Hot lunches on Thursdays will begin in the coming weeks. Look for more information to come

