



The Ferndale Flash



Principal:

Mrs. D. Mikolic

Vice-Principal

Mrs. M. Hilliker

Secretaries:

Mrs. C. Rees-Nelles

Mrs. V. Janzen

From your Admin...

February 2021

UPCOMING DATES

Primary Virtual Recognition Assembly	FEB 1
Junior Virtual Shout Outs Assembly	FEB 8
PA DAY	FEB 12
FAMILY DAY NO SCHOOL	FEB 15
DSBN PINK SHIRT DAY	FEB 24
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING (VIRTUAL)	FEB 23

Certainly not the start up to 2021 that we were hoping for, however, I would like to take this time to thank the Ferndale Community for their support and participation in our virtual learning platforms! We know this is not easy for the students, the teachers and yourselves, but we are thankful for how everyone has adjusted and moved forward with the situation. Hopefully, it won't be too long until we are back in school, learning in-person! It is hard to believe that we are approaching the half-way point of the school year! First term report cards will be coming home February 18 - 19, providing students and parents with valuable feedback. It is a good time of year to revisit and perhaps revise some of our goals as we enter the second term.

When setting goals with your child, we encourage you to discuss an action plan for reaching those goals. A good action plan will identify specific actions that the student will take. These actions should be easy to monitor. Avoid action plans that involve the words "trying harder", as this is an action that is difficult to see, measure and monitor. It is better to ask what does "trying harder" look like? The answer to this question will help provide the basis for an effective plan. Referring to the Learning Skills section of the Report Card is also a good place to start when setting goals.

D. Mikolic
Principal

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

Ms Janzen and Ms Rees would like to thank those who have been using the Safe Arrival System to inform the school of their child's absences. Please note that if busses are cancelled due to weather but the schools remain open, absences still need to be reported via the Safe Arrival system. We greatly appreciate your help in this attendance procedure.

Our school is a very busy place, especially in the mornings and at the end of the day. Although we understand that at times plans can change, instructional time for all of our students is extremely important. If, due to a sudden change of plans, you need the office to relay a message to your child, please be aware that we will deliver the message either during the first or second nutritional break. For end of the day changes, please get all messages into the office no later than 2:30 PM. Thank you for helping us try to keep the classroom free from disruptions.

REPORT CARD UPDATE

Term 1 Report Card Update

Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning

Due to the extension of remote learning, the Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning will be issued over two days between February 18-19. Families can expect to receive additional information about the Report Card distribution process from their school administrator, once further information about the return to "in-person learning" becomes available.

Report cards give a summary of student achievement at the end of each term. Teachers use their professional judgement and consider factors such as consistency, recent improvement and amount of evidence in order to determine students' grades or marks. Teachers and students work together to gather evidence of their learning over time from observations, conversations and student products.

This year, the Ontario Ministry of Education updated the [math curriculum](#) for Grades 1 to 8 which started in September 2020. The new mathematics curriculum is part of a [four-year math strategy](#) designed to:

- improve student performance in math
- help students solve everyday math problems
- increase students' employability to attain the jobs of the future

Updates to Assessment and Evaluation in Mathematics (Grades 1-8)

To foster a cohesive approach to both instruction and assessment across the elementary mathematics curriculum, achievement in mathematics will be reported in the **Elementary Report Card** as one overall letter grade (Grades 1-6) or percentage mark (Grades 7-8), with supporting comments. Comments will describe significant strengths demonstrated by the student, and identify next steps for improvement. Teachers may also describe a student's growth in learning.

The Ministry has provided more information about the new math curriculum for parents on the following website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8>. [If you have any questions, please make arrangements to speak with your child's teacher.](#)



INCLEMENT WEATHER

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

At times when students' transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision on whether or not to have children on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that the transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or will arrive late, please ensure that you report your child's absence through the Safe Arrival, school messenger reporting service.

A key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

WEBSITES:

www.dsbn.org
www.nsts.ca

SUBSCRIPTIONS FEATURES:

DSBN Facebook or Twitter
NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

PHONE:

Niagara Student Transportation Services - 905-346-0290

RADIO STATIONS:

CKTB (610 AM) St Catharines
WAVE (94.7) Hamilton

CHRE (105.7 FM) St Catharines
CHTZ (97.7 FM) St Catharines

CKOC (1150AM) Hamilton
CHML (900AM) Hamilton
CHAM (820AM) Hamilton
Y-108 (107.9 FM) Hamilton

CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie
K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton
GIANT FM (91.7 FM) WELLAND

TELEVISION STATIONS:

CH - Hamilton
CityTV Breakfast Television
CTV Toronto
Cogeco Channel 10

CANCELLATIONS & CLOSURES



SAFE ARRIVAL SCHOOL MESSENGER

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians that have been using the Safe Arrival reporting system to report your child's attendance. This system reduces 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 Safe Arrival, you are asked to report your child's absence, late arrivals, and early departures 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.ca>). 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**, at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. 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 **1-866-606-5567** 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.**

This information is always available on our school website, under 'Report Absence'



SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

A banner for 'School Cash Online'. At the top, it says 'School Cash Online'. Below that, it says 'Paying school items just got easier! Sign up to get started today.' There is a section titled 'What is School Cash Online?' with a subtext 'School Cash Online is an easy to use, safe way to pay for your children's school fees.' To the right of this text is an image of a pair of orange sneakers. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Get Started Today' and 'Sign Into Your Account'. A yellow arrow points from the 'What is School Cash Online?' section towards the 'Get Started Today' button.

We use School Cash Online for ALL payments this year. Once you have registered, you will receive email notifications for items that are available for you to purchase and reminders when the item is about to expire. If you are new to Ferndale coming from another DSBN school, your previous login information is still valid. If you are new to school, have not previously signed up or are coming from another board you will be required to register.

Go directly to the website <http://ferndale.dsb.org> (or hold ctrl and click on the link)

1. Click on the Cash Online icon on the top right hand corner (Please note: Internet Explorer is the most effective internet browser for Cash Online).
2. Create a profile for yourself (Parent/ Guardian).
3. Attach your student(s) to your profile (date of birth & legal name required). If you need any assistance or internet access please see Ms. Rees or Mrs. Janzen in the main office.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Once the protective surface on the playgrounds becomes frozen, both playgrounds will be closed for the winter to ensure the safety of our students. Thanks for your cooperation in helping all our kids stay safe by reinforcing this before/after school hours as well.



PLAYING OUTSIDE EVERY DAY



Each and every day, unless there is a severe winter weather alert, we will endeavor to get our students outside to play and get some fresh air. Children need 60 minutes a day of physical activity, and there is no better way to keep them active through the winter than by getting outside. Please send your child with appropriate warm winter gear. Hats are essential for warmth and when dressed properly, kids can really enjoy our Canadian winter and have fun! While not at school, try skating, hiking, building a snowman or go tobogganing.

SNOW POLICY

Now that the kids are dressed warm, Ferndale's policy with respect to snow is **"Please leave it on the ground"**. To ensure the safety of students on our playground during the winter months, it is necessary for us to ban the throwing/kicking of snow/ice, sliding on ice, as well as the use of the playground equipment. Children are also not permitted to slide on the ice for their safety. Children who are unsafe with the snow and ice will be temporarily re-moved from recess, and if further infractions occur, they will have an office detention, followed by calls home and if necessary, even a potential suspension for repeated infractions. The students are constantly reminded of our snow rules. We just want to make sure that everyone is safe. After school, kindly keep your children off of the equipment as well for their safety, as even if there is no snow on the equipment, the ground is frozen which no longer allows for the proper cushion should a child fall. Children will be notified when the equipment is safe to play on again.



INDOOR SHOES



Just a reminder that with the cold, wet weather it is recommended that students keep a pair of indoor shoes to wear in the classroom and during physical education. This is a safety issue as well as helps keep our school clean and tidy. Thank you

WINTER REMINDERS

Winter is exciting for kids. It brings some great outdoor activities, and here are some winter safety tips:

- * Never allow kids to play outside alone. Establish a buddy system.
- * Have younger children take frequent breaks to come inside for a warm drink.
- * Tell children not to put their tongues on cold metal. It may sound silly but some still do it.
- * Advise children to stay away from snow blowers and snowplows.
- * Never play in an area by roads, fences or water.



STUDENT FEELING UNWELL?

With the winter comes the flu and cold season, some of the symptoms may include the following,

- Vomiting, Diarrhea or Nausea
- Fever or Chills (temperature of 100°F / 37.8 °C or more)
- Cough or Sore Throat
- Sneezing, Nasal Congestion or Runny Nose
- Red or Pink eyes
- Stomach Ache or Body Aches
- Headache or Fatigue
- Hoarseness, Chest pain or Shortness of Breath



If your child portrays any signs or symptoms of being unwell, either the night before school or the morning of, please keep the student home until they are symptom free for 24 hours. We appreciate your help in trying to keep the classrooms germ free.

HEART HEALTHY

Tips For a Healthy Heart

1. DON'T SMOKE OR USE TOBACCO

Chemicals in tobacco can damage your heart and blood vessels, leading to narrowing of the arteries.

2. EXERCISE FOR 30 MINUTES ON MOST DAYS OF THE WEEK

Physical activity helps you control your weight and can reduce your chances of developing other conditions that may put a strain on your heart, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes

3. EAT A HEART HEALTHY DIET

Choose healthy fats over unhealthy fats; increase intake of fruits and vegetables, whole grains and low fat dairy products.

4. MAINTAIN HEALTHY WEIGHT

Reducing your weight by just 10 percent can decrease your blood pressure, lower your blood cholesterol level and reduce your risk of diabetes.

5. GET REGULAR HEALTH SCREENINGS

Make sure to monitor your blood pressure, cholesterol levels and have your diabetes screening.

BETHESDA

Bethesda Services offers a wide range of programs for both elementary and secondary students and families. See [Bethesda's Children's Service Guide](#) for February to April 2021 for more information.

FRENCH IMMERSION

French Immersion at the DSNB starts in Grade 1, if you have a student in senior kindergarten and are considering transferring the student to French Immersion for grade 1, it's not too late. The registration deadline is Tuesday February 16th 2021. For more information please go to, www.dsnb.org/fi

Register for French Immersion

Monday, January, 4 to Tuesday, February, 16

[CLICK HERE](#)

French Immersion at the DSNB
starts in Grade 1

goodbye January
hello FEBRUARY

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



Hi! I'm Barkley. Your child's Kindergarten sidekick.

I'm here to tell you that it's time to register for Kindergarten!

Normally I'd invite you inside one of our Kindergarten classrooms so you and your child could look around with me, but to keep each other safe, we have to wait to do that another time. What I can do is help you find all the information you need to register your child for Kindergarten at the DSBN! I put it on www.dsbm.org/kindergarten for you. It has important information like:

- How to register your child online
- A video about a typical day in Kindergarten
- A Kindergarten classroom 360° virtual tour
- An e-book about how I overcame my first day fears



Register today at dsbn.org/kindergarten. I can't wait to meet you and your child at school!