



The Dragon's Den



315 Southworth St. South, Welland Ontario, L3B-1Z8, 905-734-3208
Superintendent: Kelly Pisek 905-641-1550 Trustee: Sue Barnett 905-734-7110

Acting Principal: Amy Morocco

Vice-Principal: Kristin Theriault

September 2017

Message from the Office

Welcome Back! The Diamond Trail Staff would like to welcome back staff, students and parents. We would also like to welcome new students and their families to our school community.

We hope that you and your family had a wonderful summer. A big thank you goes out to Mr. Chunick, for getting the school clean and ready for another school year. We would also like to thank all staff for helping to get our classrooms ready for the opening of the 2017-18 school year!

To keep you informed about the many activities and events at Diamond Trail, a newsletter will be available on-line each month. Please visit our website at <http://diamondtrail.dsbns.org/> if you would like a hard copy sent home with your child(ren) please complete and return the request slip sent home in this newsletter.

Welcome to the new staff joining the DTR family: Ms. O'Neill, Mrs. Cymbalisty-Davis, Mrs. Barnes, Mr. Eckhardt, Mr. Gaspich, Mrs. Verwey, Mrs. McGill, Mrs. Cvetkovic, Mrs. Theriault, Mrs. Wiebe, Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Gaboury, Ms. Crisante and Mrs. Nowell-Duncan. Also, welcome back Mrs. Morocco who will be here until Ms. Spero returns.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please do not hesitate to call the school. We are excited about this school year and are eager to be working with our Diamond Trail families. Our dedicated and energetic staff also looks forward to ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER!

Class Assignments are Tentative

We would like to remind parents that classroom assignments and student placements are not etched in stone until Sept. 15. Changes may be necessary as a result of many reasons which may include but are not limited to: new registrations, meeting Ministry requirements for class size caps, and/or an increase or decrease in staff as result of an increase or decrease in student population. If any classroom assignments are being altered parents will be informed if it affects their child(ren) prior to the change.

Allergy and Medication

If students require medication while at school, a medical form **MUST** be completed by your Doctor. If a student has a severe allergy (anaphylactic) and you did not receive a form on the first day please contact the office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Nut Allergies

We strongly encourage parents and students to respect those who have an anaphylactic condition. We are asking students to refrain from bringing foods that contain nuts. Peanut and nut allergies are usually severe and can be fatal. Even tiny amounts of nut particles or residue can cause someone with a nut allergy to have a strong reaction. Without treatment, this person could die within minutes. Please read labels to see if peanut or nut products are present. Try to avoid products that do not carry a list of ingredients. If foods containing nuts are inadvertently sent to school, they will be stored at the office for a short period of time. If you do not pick them up, they will then be discarded.

Important Paperwork

This week, your child will bring home a number of important forms which need to be completed. **Please return the completed and signed forms to school as soon as possible.** It is vital to keep student information up to date throughout the year. In the unfortunate event that your child takes ill or is injured, we will make every effort to reach you, but we also need additional names and numbers in case we cannot contact you. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Not included in this package are:

VOLUNTEER DRIVER FORM: If you anticipate driving students to school functions this year at all, please request this form from the office as soon as possible. Each volunteer driver must complete this form each year (one form per driver, per vehicle, per year).

MEDICATION FORM: If any medication is to be dispensed at school, DSBNS policy indicates a form must be completed by the parent and the attending physician. All medication included in one of these forms must arrive at the school with the prescription label on the container, with the label information matching the completed form. Please see Sherri if you have any further questions.

Accidents Can Happen

Each year a Student Accident Insurance Plan is made available for all students on a voluntary basis. The plan provides protection for **DENTAL DAMAGE DUE TO ACCIDENTS, FRACTURE BENEFITS AND OTHER IMPORTANT COVERAGES**, which are **NOT** covered under the Provincial Health Plan. Some parents may have Dental Plan coverage through their work but many of these plans are limited in one way or another, while this accident coverage is not. You should compare to make sure you have the coverage you need or desire.

UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT THE BOARD IS NOT PERMITTED TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACCIDENTS TO PUPILS, THEREFORE,

the Board recommends consideration of this plan to any parent who wishes to obtain this kind of insurance. Although the policy has all the advantages of a group plan, it is essentially a direct contract between the parent and the insurance company.

Details of these plans are described on the application form which we should be receiving soon. If you require further information, you may contact **Reliable Life at Box 2046, Hamilton, L8N 9Z9 or call toll free at 1-800-465-0661**. If you wish to subscribe to this insurance, please complete the form and mail it *directly* to Reliable Life Insurance Company in the enclosed stamped envelope immediately. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.**

You may also enrol online at www.insuremykids.com (for all plans except the \$3.50 basic plan). It costs as little as \$8 per student for one year of basic school day/school activity coverage.

If the enrolment form for the Student Accident Insurance Plan has not been received or it has been misplaced, please contact your school office.

Sign in/Sign Out for students

If you are picking up or dropping off your child(ren) during the school day, please use the front entrance. Students will need to check in at the Office when leaving and when they return.

Nutrition and Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Program and Nutrition Program kick off on Monday September 18th. Once again, if you are interested in helping with the Nutrition Program, please call the office.

For Safety's Sake

Please call the automated "Safe Arrival" to report an absence 1 866 606 5567. The system is available 24 hours a day. This will reduce the number of call backs the secretaries have to make. The office tracks the attendance of all our students twice daily. If we do not hear from you, and your child is not in school, we will call.

If your child is in danger of suffering a severe anaphylactic reaction to bee stings, nuts or other allergies, please inform the office immediately so that an emergency plan can be put in place to ensure that your child's medical needs are met immediately.

Please inform the school if there are special custody orders for your child.

Please do not send medication to school with your child or place it in your child's backpack. All medication, including over-the-counter drugs, must be stored at the office with written instructions for administration.

Visitor Sign In and School Security

If you have to pick up a student early, or drop something off for your child during school hours, we ask that you enter through the front door, using the call button at the front of the school.

Items, which you drop off, may be left with the office and we will call down your child at the next class break.

Please write a note in the student organizer for the teacher if you need to pick up your child early. We will make every effort to have your child at the front doors waiting for you.

All visitors who wish to enter the school will need to sign in and wear a visitor's tag. Wearing the visitor's tag signifies to staff and students that you have stopped by the office before walking through the school.

At regular entry times, we ask that your child wait outside their assigned entry door and refrain from using the front door. At dismissal, if you are picking up your child, we ask that you wait outside your child's assigned exit door. Students should not exit or enter through the front door because of all the traffic in the parking lot. Students who walk home with a younger sibling are encouraged to meet them outside their dismissal door. Kindergarten students will be dismissed to their parent or to a designated adult

Important Dates

Holidays

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| October 9 | Thanksgiving |
| December 25-January 5 | Winter Break |
| February 19 | Family Day |
| March 12-16 | Spring Break |
| March 30 | Good Friday |
| April 2 | Easter Monday |
| May 21 | Victoria Day |

Early Release Days

September 15

Professional Development Days

October 6
November 17
January 19
February 16
May 18
June 8
June 29

Last day of School June 28

Meet the Teacher Neighbourhood Engagement BBQ

Watch for a flyer to come home regarding our upcoming event to be held on Thursday, September 21st from 4:00-6:00p.m.

EQAO TESTING GRADES 3 & 6

If you have a child in Grade 3 or Grade 6, please do not book any holidays or doctor's appointments from May 22 to June 4, 2018. EQAO, the provincial assessment, will take place during this time span (specific dates and times for Diamond Trail School will follow).

Dragon's Den Assemblies

The **Dragon's Den Assemblies** will continue this year. We continue to align the character traits recognized at our assemblies with the DSBN's "Character in Action". September we will focus on Respect. We hope to see at our assemblies this year! The first assembly of the year will be Monday, October 2nd at 10:00am.

Bell Times

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:55- 10:35 | First Instructional Block (100 min.) |
| 10:35-11:20 | Fitness/Nutrition Break |
| 11:20-1:00 | Second Instructional Block (100 min.) |
| 1:00-1:45 | Fitness/Nutrition Break |
| 1:45-3:25 | Third Instructional Block (100 min.) |

Photo Day

This year, our school photographer will be *Lifetouch*. Our school photo day will be Tuesday, September 19th

Student Agendas

Diamond Trail Student Agendas will be distributed the first week of school to students in Grades 1 through 8. The Diamond Trail School Code of Conduct is included in the organizer as well as our Student Handbook. Please take the time to read through the organizer with your child to establish a clear understanding of the school's policies and procedures. The cost of the Agenda is **\$5.00**. Please send this in as soon as possible to your child's teacher.

Gym Shoes/Indoor Shoes

Our custodian has worked extremely hard this summer to make our school sparkle and shine. We can show our appreciation by ensuring that our students have clean shoes to wear inside the building. In addition, for safety reasons and to help develop positive attitudes and total involvement in physical education classes, students need proper footwear for the gym.

DSBN Continues Makerspace Revolution

In recent years a new focus has emerged in elementary classrooms throughout the world – Makerspaces. Makerspaces encourage invention, design, building, programming, tinkering, and creativity using products from all fields of technology, science and math. Innovation and discovery is happening at rapid speed and students are responding to this form of classroom delivery with enthusiasm and creativity. To nurture this new initiative the District School Board of Niagara has decided to expand our elementary Technology programs, encompassing the Makerspace philosophy.

Previously grade 7 and 8 students would be bussed to local high schools to participate in a Design Technology program. Our focus will now be to bring current skills and technology to all students, in all grades, to a Makerspace environment. Teachers will now have the time and space to immerse their students in an innovative and technologically enriched environment. Schools and communities will be using their Makerspaces to complete cross curricular projects and board wide challenges designed to foster the skills and creativity that are hallmarks of today's technological world.

Stay tuned for more news and ways to get involved in the Makerspace revolution.

School-Based Immunization Clinics

Did you know that every year in Canada, 1,400 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 400 will die from it? Almost all cervical cancers are caused by a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection.

The HPV vaccine is an important medical advancement that makes cervical cancer a preventable disease. Once again, this year, the HPV vaccine called Gardasil® will be offered free to **all female Grade 8 students** through Niagara Region Public Health's school-based immunization clinics.

In addition, the Hepatitis B vaccine, HPV and the Meningococcal vaccine called Menactra® will be offered free to **all Grade 7 students**. Parent/student information packages will be coming home with your child in September. Clinic dates and times are October 24, 2017 & April 24, 2018.

For more information, speak to your school nurse or call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

Fundraising Information

Diamond Trail School will have 2 large fundraisers this school year. The first will be a magazine sale. This fundraiser will take place October 5, 2017 to October 19, 2017. The second fundraiser will be a Dance-a-Thon that will be held in February 2018.

Each division will host smaller fundraisers throughout the school year to raise money for their division. More information about this will be shared in advance.

Snack Shack

Last year the snack shack was a great success! This year the Fundamental Skills Class will continue to run the Snack Shack every Thursday during both breaks. A selection of bagged treats such as popcorn and baked chips will be available as well as some frozen treats during the fall and spring months. All snacks cost \$1.



Early Release Day

Friday, September 15th is our first early release day. Students who walk to and from school will be dismissed at 12:25 p.m. (after period 3). Students will still have a break in the morning, please be sure to send snacks for this time. Students who are bussed will be dismissed when their bus arrives - around 12:25 p.m.

Hot Lunch Days

Our special lunch days (pizza, sub days etc) will begin in October. Lunches will be offered every Wednesday unless told otherwise. An order form will be sent home later in September. It will be important to sign up for School Cash Online (please see below).

School Cash Online

We know you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. To respect those demands, we'd like to help you save both time and effort. We are pleased to be able to provide you with the opportunity to approve permission forms and pay for school items, such as fieldtrips and school spirit wear, online. This year we are moving away from collecting monies at the Office and using only the "School Cash Online".

It takes just five minutes to register for this service. You will be able access the service by visiting our school website and clicking on "School Cash Online." There, you'll find more information about the system, links to registration and support. You can use School Cash Online with confidence; it is a safe and secure portal. If you need help with this, please contact the Office and someone will help you out! If you need a computer to use please let us know- we will find one for you to use. Please sign up as soon as possible so you have access to field trip permission forms, hot lunch order forms and more!

Using School Cash Online, you may never have to search for spare change again! That is, unless you're looking for coffee money.

Instructions on how to register for "School Cash Online" are included at the end of the newsletter. Again, if you need any help please let us know at the Office!

DIAMOND TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate myself or another individual for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the DIAMOND TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Business Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Position Sought: Member Secretary Treasurer Vice-Chair Chair

I am the parent/guardian of _____

who is/are currently registered at DIAMOND TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The person I have nominated is an employee of the District School Board of Niagara.

yes no

Nominator's Signature

Date

Diamond Trail School Council

Diamond Trail School Council members would like to remind our returning families and also inform our new families that School Council elections will be held at our first meeting on **Tuesday, September 26th at 6:00 p.m.** Any parent or guardian of a child attending Diamond Trail School is able to become a member of School Council. Diamond Trail School has enjoyed the participation of an active School Council. We look forward to the continued support of our parent community. Please make an effort to attend our first meeting of the school year. Please fill in the School Council Nomination form above if you are interested! If you would like to nominate someone from our parent community please complete the form and submit to the office before September 26th.

Newsletter Request

If you would like a hard copy of the monthly newsletter please fill out and return to the school.

Student Name:

Teacher:

I would like a hard copy of the newsletter: Yes No

Dear Diamond Trail Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to provide our parents with an opportunity to pay for school services, products or events online. Registration should take less than five minutes and can be done by visiting our school website and clicking on the School Cash Online button.

Register:

- Visit www.dsbn.org/schoolcash and select “Register Now”
- Complete the three registration steps
- **NOTE:** You must create your profile using **your name** and **not** your children’s

Confirm Your Account:

- You will receive a confirmation email from School Cash Online
- Click on the link provided*
- Sign in to your account using your email and password

Add Student:

- This will connect your children to your account
- Confirm the school board name – DSBN
- Select our school
- Enter your child’s name and birth date
- Select continue
- Confirm your child and select continue
- Your child has been added

View Items or Add Another Student

- If you have more children, select “Add Another Student” and repeat the above steps
- If you wish to view a listing of items available for purchase, click “View Items for Students”




Add Student

1. Type in the School Board name and select one from the list

District School Board of Niagara

Change school board name.

2. Select a school 

Select school... 

Last Name *

Birth Date *
Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

Confirm

[I don't want to add a student](#)

*To ensure the highest level of security, School Cash Online does not support TLS 1.0. Therefore, if you are using Internet Explorer version 9.0 or lower, please refer to the attached instructions on how to access the link within the confirmation email. Alternatively, you can copy the link and paste in Google Chrome.

If you experience any difficulty registering for this service, you can access support and a list of Frequently Asked Questions by visiting www.dsbn.org/schoolcash and clicking on “Support.”