

# CHEETAH CHATTER

4635 Pettit Ave.  
 Niagara Falls, ON  
 L2E 6L4  
 905.356-2801  
[cherrywood.dsbm.org](http://cherrywood.dsbm.org)



February 2021

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the staff at Cherrywood Acres, we want to thank all our families for the support. We know that it can be a challenge to have your child log in each day and participate in the learning. The staff is truly grateful for your perseverance and amazing efforts. We are also so proud of our students. They are working hard! We love seeing our students connecting with us in our virtual classrooms every day. This is truly a family effort!

I also would like to send a "Shout Out" to our amazing staff and all of the ways they are engaging our Cheetahs in their virtual classrooms, while also providing support with technology issues as they come up.

It is important that we ensure we are maintaining balance with our families. Please ensure you take some time to care for your physical and emotional health and well-being. What can you do as a family to balance these needs? Take a family walk, play with your dog in the backyard, build a snowman, or perhaps bake some special treats. Sending uplifting messages can also improve our own mood. When we share our gratitude, it helps us feel more positive, build strong friendships, and deal with challenges. Tell someone why they are important to you.

With Term 1 Report Cards and the Kindergarten Communication of Learning coming home in February, this is a great opportunity to reflect on your child's progress and set some goals for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions, comments, and or concerns, your child's teacher. Please see the important information in regard to our Term 1 report cards and the Term 1 Kindergarten Communication of Learning.

Stay safe and healthy Cheetahs!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Black History Month ..... Feb 1-28
- World Hijab Day ..... Feb. 1
- 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School ..... Feb. 11
- Spirit Day - Wear Hearts or Red, Pink and White or 100 of Something ..... Feb. 11
- Chinese New Year Begins ..... Feb 12
- PA Day ..... Feb. 12
- Family Day holiday ..... Feb. 15
- Term 1 Reports and Kindergarten Communication of Learning go home ..... Feb. 18-19
- Pink Shirt Day ..... Feb. 24
- School Council Meeting ..... Feb, 24

## PA DAY

On Friday, February 12, all DSBM schools will be closed for a PA Day in which teachers will be engaged in professional learning activities. Should we still be learning remotely, students and teachers will not engage in synchronous or asynchronous learning on this day.



## DREAMBOX LEARNING

DreamBox Learning Math is an online program with educational games that are individualized for your child, adapting the curriculum just for them. It's a fun, effective math learning environment. Unlike other math games that often sacrifice learning for entertainment, DreamBox delivers a rich, tailored learning experience. All of our students in grades 1-6 have access to a DreamBox account. Please contact your child's teacher for further information.

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATES

Our next School Council meeting is scheduled for February 24th at 5:30 pm. This year, our council meetings are being held virtually. If you are currently not a member of our council and would like to attend the meeting, please email Ms. Cocco at [sally.cocco@dsbn.org](mailto:sally.cocco@dsbn.org). She will be happy to send you an electronic invite to attend

## SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT

**Do you have questions about your child's mental health and well-being, such as anxiety, behaviour or self-harm?**

**Do you need support in accessing supports in the community?**

**Do you need advice for setting goals to help with regular school attendance?**

**Do you have any questions or looking for support regarding a certain aspect of parenting?**

If these are some questions that you have, please speak with your child's teacher or Ms. Cocco. Sue Bennett is a DSBN Social Worker that works with families in Niagara Falls schools, including Cherrywood, to provide an additional layer of support to help our students and families achieve success. She is an invaluable member of our Cherrywood Acres team and is looking forward to connecting with families.

## GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

The French Immersion program (offered at French Immersion sites) is open to all students entering Grade 1 in September. If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer. [Check out this video about our program!](#)

Registration is now open and will close February 16th, 2021. For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit [www.dsbn.org/fi](http://www.dsbn.org/fi).

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Was your child or do you know a child born in 2017 or turning 4 years old in 2021? If so, spread the word that Kindergarten registration is now open! 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 <https://www.dsbn.org/earlylearners/kickstart/home> 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/childcare/kindergarten](https://www.dsbn.org/childcare/kindergarten). I can't wait to meet you and your child at school!



Hi! I'm Barkley. Your child's Kindergarten sidekick. I'm here to tell you that it's time to register for Kindergarten!

## PINK SHIRT DAY

Anti-Bullying Day, also known as Pink Shirt Day, is recognized on the last Wednesday in February in Canada. On February 24, we encourage all members of the Cherrywood Acres community to wear something pink to symbolize that we at Cherrywood Acres will not tolerate bullying.

### What is bullying?

Bullying is aggressive behaviour that is typically repeated over time. It is meant to cause harm, fear or distress or create a negative environment at school for another person. Bullying occurs in a situation where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

### Is conflict the same as bullying?

People may sometimes confuse conflict with bullying, but they are different. Conflict occurs between two or more people who have a disagreement, a difference of opinion or different views. Conflict between students does not always mean its bullying. Children learn at a young age to understand that others can have a different perspective than their own, but developing the ability to gain perspective takes time and the process continues into early adulthood (Stepping Stones: A Resource on Youth Development, page 26). (The above information is taken from [www.ontario.ca/page/bullying-we-can-all-help-stop-it](https://www.ontario.ca/page/bullying-we-can-all-help-stop-it))

## DSBN ACADEMY: VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 8

Learn about the DSBN Academy at the Virtual Open House on **Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM!** Join us to find out:

- How this unique program prepares students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- What extra opportunities are offered and how your child can benefit
- If the DSBN Academy is a good fit for your child

The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6-12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.



Students in Grade 5, 6, and 7 will participate in a Virtual Roadshow during class time and learned more about the DSBN Academy and everything it has to offer. **Online registration is open at [ACADEMY.DSBM.ORG/APPLY](https://academy.dsbm.org/apply). Registration will close on FEBRUARY 15, 2021. Limited spots available.**

### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO DSBN ACADEMY?

- Student must live within the Niagara Region
- Student is entering Grade 6, 7 or 8 in September 2021
- Student would be the first in their family to graduate from a college or university program
  - If a sibling has attended post-secondary but the parent(s)/guardian(s) have not, the student is still considered a First-Generation Student
- Student is achieving current grade level expectations or just below
- Student has demonstrated the potential for achieving "good" or "excellent" learning skills
- Student is willing to attend a school that may be out of their community with free transportation provided
- Student understands there are mandatory after-school academic supports and *ENCORE* programs
  - After-school *ENCORE* options include: Mixed sports, Board games, Photography, Yoga, Makerspace, Choir, Reading, and many more!
- Families understand that the DSBN Academy is a single-track pathway beginning in Grade 9 (academic level only)

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:** [Derek.Harley@dsbn.org](mailto:Derek.Harley@dsbn.org) - Elementary Principal

## 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.

## CONNECT WITH US!

In our busy lives, events can sometimes be overlooked. Technology allows us multiple ways to connect with families. The following is a list of ways we use to connect with families to ensure all families are aware of the many events happening throughout the year.

### SCHOOL WEBSITE - <http://cherrywood.dsbns.org>

Please take some time to visit the Cherrywood Acres Public School website. Our website includes current newsletters, school calendars, code of conduct, school council information, a school year calendar and bell times.

### SCHOOL MESSENGER

Using the School Messenger program, important updates and information will be shared through a phone call and/or email as they become available. If you are not receiving these phone calls and emails, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information and that you are subscribed to receive emails. For School Messenger to be its most effective, it is imperative that we have up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses.

### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

All newsletters will be posted to the school website and sent via School Messenger through email on the first school day of the new month.