

# CHEETAH CHATTER

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 905-356-2801  
[cherrywood.dsbns.org](http://cherrywood.dsbns.org)



May 2021

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Throughout the month of April, we distributed almost 40 devices to our students so that they were able to engage in our virtual learning platforms. I would like to send my sincere appreciation to our staff for transitioning to virtual learning and keeping our students and families engaged! Finally, a virtual high-five to our parents and guardians for supporting the learning of our Vipers by helping them get up and ready to learn each day!

We are thrilled at the dedication so many of our families have shown to supporting our students as they learn in these difficult circumstances. If you are having difficulty with the online platform, setting up routines that work for your child, or with physical or emotional well-being, we can help. Please reach out to your child's teacher! If you need to connect with the school, please either send an email to [sally.cocco@dsbn.org](mailto:sally.cocco@dsbn.org) or call and leave a message (905)-356-2801. Both the email and phone messages are checked several times a day.

## MOVING BEFORE SEPTEMBER?

In order to assist us with making the best decisions possible with respect to class organization and student placements for Cherrywood Acres Public School for the 2021/2022 school year, we would appreciate if you would let the office know if your family is planning to move in the next few months. Providing us with this information in the spring will also facilitate transportation arrangements for September. We thank you in advance for keeping us informed! School and classroom organization begins shortly so sharing this information with us now is very helpful for our planning for next year!

## DSBN SUPPORT STAFF DAY

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 12, 2021 as it is DSBN Support Staff Day. I would like to thank our amazing support staff team for all they do to ensure our students have a safe and caring school. Thank you to Mrs. Desilest, Mr. Adams, Mr. Abbruscato, Mrs. Hillhouse, Mr. Tennant, Miss Webb, Mrs. Schmagala, Mrs. DiPietro, Mr. Bevington, and Mr. McAllister!!!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Asian Heritage Month .....	All Month
Education Week.....	May 3-7
Star Wars Day .....	May 4
Happy Mother's Day .....	May 9
Jordan's Principle .....	May 10
Eid Al-Fitr .....	May 11-13
Akshaya Tritya .....	May 14
Shavuot .....	May 17-18
Vaisakhi Puja .....	May 19
World Day of Cultural Diversity .....	May 21
Victoria Day Holiday .....	May 24



## DSBN VIRTUAL ART SHOW

Young artists across DSBN are creating amazing works of art! Our artists will be celebrated during the DSBN Elementary Virtual Art Show on [www.dsb.org](http://www.dsb.org) from May 17-31!

Cherrywood artists who will be featured in the Virtual Art Show are:



Anna D.  
Ava M.  
Briar B.  
Brynlee P.  
Caira W.  
Dean M.  
Eloise V.

Francisco C.  
Kiera M.  
Korben G.  
Liam B.  
Leo B.  
Lucas B.  
Lucas W.

Michael D.  
Riley A.  
Rylee B.  
Sara G.  
Savannah U.  
Sophia S.

## EDUCATION WEEK FOR PARENTS

**EDUCATION WEEK** for PARENTS

**MAY 3** INTRODUCTION FOR PARENTS: MAKERSPACES & STEM

**MAY 4** ALL ABOUT KINDERGARTEN!

**MAY 5** NURTURING A LOVE OF READING

**MAY 6** THE NEW MATH CURRICULUM: ELEMENTARY

**MAY 7** TRANSITIONING FROM GRADE 8 TO GRADE 9

**ON-DEMAND PRESENTATIONS**  
Informational sessions from DSBN Educators

DSBN Parent Involvement Committee

There's a lot to know when it comes to your child's education, and it's important that you have access to the information you need. The Parent Involvement Committee will be posting 5 informative, on-demand presentations on YouTube for parents and guardians, delivered by DSBN educators!

Watch them starting **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** on [DSBN's YouTube channel](#). No need to register. All you need to do is click on the DSBN YouTube link or go to [dsbn.org/pic](http://dsbn.org/pic), choose the speaker series option and select what you would like to watch. **Which topic interests you?**

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE: SPEAKER SERIES

2020-2021 PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
**VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES**

**HOW TO MAKE OUR KIDS MORE RESILIENT WITH DR. MICHAEL UNGAR**

**WEDNESDAY MAY 26**  
7:00PM - 8:00PM

FAMILY THERAPIST & PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

DSBN Parent Involvement Committee

Resilience is much more than our children's ability to overcome adversity. It's also about having access to certain support from their families, schools, and communities for their overall health and well-being, and this is important at any age.

In this live presentation, Dr. Ungar will share stories, speak to what resiliency means and how it affects students, and will tell you 9 practical ideas that you can use to nurture and help build resiliency in your kids. Make sure to jot down your questions for the live Q&A at the end!

**Save the Date:** Wednesday, May 26 at 7PM. **REGISTRATION COMING SOON!**

## CLASS PLACEMENTS 2021-2022

The staffing process for a new school year always continues through the remainder of the school year and often requires “fine tuning” during the first weeks of September. The teachers assigned to each class and class organizations have not been finalized at this point. When we organize classes, a great deal of consideration goes into the placement of students for the next year. The staff take into account the children’s needs in order to provide an appropriate academic and social environment. Regarding class placement, if your child has any significant learning/education needs which you feel should be considered, please send Ms. Cocco an email [sally.cocco@dsbn.org](mailto:sally.cocco@dsbn.org), stating these factors no later than May 14. All requests will be considered (but cannot be guaranteed), in conjunction with the above staff considerations, when making decisions about student placements.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE FOR KINDERGARTEN AND ALL GRADES

Has someone moved into the area or do you need to register for Kindergarten? Online registrations are available and are encouraged in order for us to keep up-to-date and current in regard to our students for September. If you need to register or know someone who needs to, please have them visit the [DSBN Kindergarten registration link](#) or email the school at [cwd@dsbn.org](mailto:cwd@dsbn.org) and we can help get the registration completed online. The most accurate information will allow us to plan appropriately.

## SCHOOL VANDALISM

Now that the warm weather has arrived, we seek your cooperation in reducing school vandalism. If you notice any vandalism or damages to DSBN schools or properties and are looking to report it, please call Password Protection Services. The phone number is 1-800-561-3099. Once notified, they will then contact the appropriate personnel at DSBN and the issues will be dealt with in a timely manner. Thank you for your support in keeping our school and community safe and for your help in keeping our building safe for when our students return!

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SUPPORTS

If you have any concerns about your child’s mental health or well-being, please connect with your child’s teacher. Although we are not in our school building, there are still many supports we can offer.

### How can I access mental health support in the community?

1. Pathstone Mental Health has walk-in clinics and a call centre available for immediate support. Parents and students may phone the Pathstone Mental Health Crisis and Support Line at 1-800-263-4944. Please visit <https://pathstonementalhealth.ca/> for more information.
2. Support from Kids Help Phone can be accessed by calling 1-800-668-6868, texting CONNECT to 686868, or live chatting at [www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca).
3. Youth Wellness Hub Niagara: <https://youthhubs.ca/en/sites/niagara/> or on Facebook and Instagram @YWHNiagara
4. Canadian Mental Health Niagara: <https://niagara.cmha.ca/>
5. Contact Niagara will be hosting one-hour Zoom sessions every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday for the next month to disseminate information about community resources for child and adolescent mental health and developmental services. Here is where you may find more information: <http://contactniagara.org/en/webinars>

### How can I support myself and my family in coping during COVID-19?

The National Association of School Psychologists has provided a link with tips for talking to your kids about COVID-19.

- [A Parent Resource: Talking to Children about COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)
- [Supporting Kids During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [Video: How to Talk to Kids About the Coronavirus](#)
- [Mental Health and COVID-19.](#)

The District School Board of Niagara is working closely with Niagara Public Health on Coronavirus (COVID-19) communication to ensure students and their families receive relevant and timely information to keep them healthy. If you would like information, please use the following contacts:

#### Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Info Line

905-688-8248 ext. 7330  
Toll free: 1-888-505-6074

## 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.dsbm.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 it's 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.

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES



# Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

## COVID-19 – Understanding the local stats

Coping with the impacts of COVID-19 in our community has been very tough on everyone and we understand that 'COVID-fatigue' may have set in. This term refers to people getting tired of following the rules set in place to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Although Niagara is well underway with COVID-19 vaccinations, we do not want to let our guard down. We remind everyone to please still follow the [safety measures to help protect you, your family, friends and our community](#).

Check out these videos from Niagara Region Public Health's Dr. Hirji addressing the vaccines: [Vaccine Safety](#), [AstraZeneca](#) and [Which Vaccine Should I Get](#). For more information, visit [niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19](https://niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19).

## Puberty Information Session for Grades 5&6 Parents

Niagara Parents will be hosting a virtual Puberty Information Session through Facebook Live for parents/caregivers of students in grades 5 and 6. This event will help support parents talk to their child(ren) about puberty, encourage open discussions about puberty and overall health, and share resources to address questions and concerns their children might have around puberty.

**Where:** [Niagara Parents Facebook page](#)

**When:** Wednesday May 26, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

## May is Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child's overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child's movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential. [The Eye See...Eye Learn®](#) program encourages parents to book a comprehensive eye exam for their junior kindergarten child with a [local, participating optometrist](#). The eye exam is covered by OHIP and children may qualify for a complementary pair of eyeglasses.

A yearly eye exam is **FREE** – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you.](#)

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see **ANY** of these signs:

- 
- Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes
  - One eye that turns out or in
- 
- Blinking often
  - Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes
- 
- Turning or tilting the head to the side often
  - Reporting blurry or double vision
- 
- Covering or closing one eye
  - Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain
- 

For more information on vision screening, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.