



4635 Pettit Avenue,
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6L4
905 356-2801

Cherrywood Chatter

<http://cherrywood.dsbns.org>

SEPTEMBER 2019

WELCOME CHEETAHS!!!!



WELCOME TO THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR!

The staff at Cherrywood Acres would like to welcome back all our returning students families. For our students and families new to Cherrywood Acres, we are excited that you will be joining our community this year. A new year is always filled with possibilities. At Cherrywood, we know that this year will be full of new learning, new experiences, new opportunities and new friendships.

The first day of school brings life back to the building, such as seeing smiling students eager to share their summer adventures and hearing excitement in the air as students settle into their new classrooms. Thank you to Mrs. Holder for the excellent job she has done this summer getting the school ready to greet our families.

Learning is a shared responsibility. A co-operative home-school partnership makes a positive impact on student learning. You are encouraged to keep in touch with your child's teachers; read your child's student agenda daily; communicate with your child's teacher in their agenda (grades 1-8) or mailbag (Kindergarten). We look forward to working with you to ensure your child is successful.

- First Day of SchoolSept. 3
- Forms Due to officeSept. 6
- Early Release DaySept. 13
- Terry Fox and Super Hero Day
.....Sept. 20
- Open HouseSept. 24
- Parent Council Sept. 24
- Rowan's Law Day Sept. 25
- Orange Shirt Day Sept. 30
- Picture Day Oct. 7
- PD Day (no school) Oct. 11
- Thanksgiving (no school)..... Oct. 14

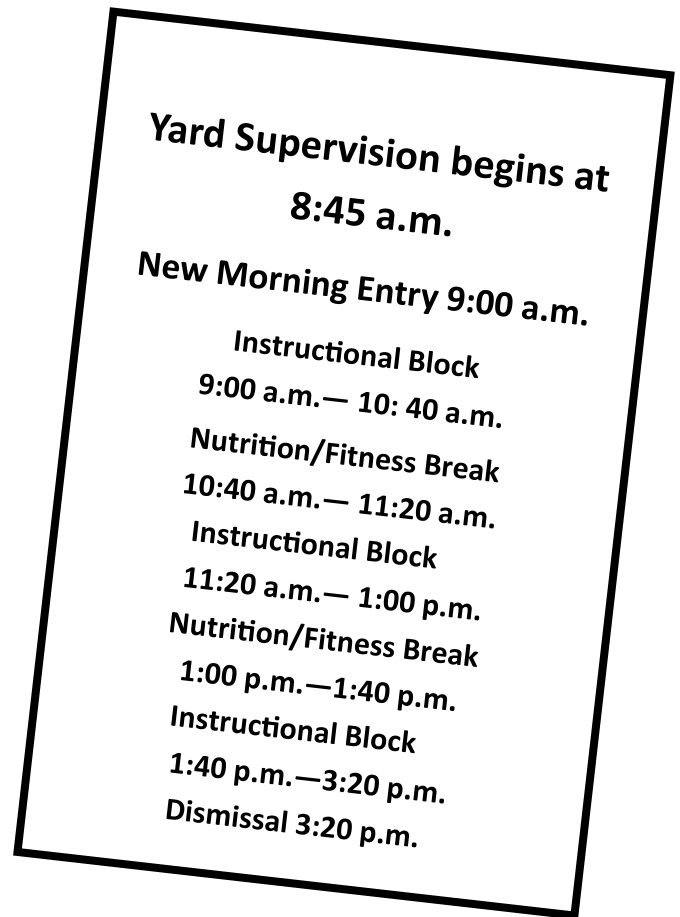
EARLY RELEASE DAY

Friday, September 13th has been designated as an Early Release Day for the District School Board of Niagara. Students will be dismissed at 12:10 pm for the remainder of the day. Bus schedules will run 3 hours earlier than usual.

ATTENDANCE AND BELL TIMES

We always need to know the whereabouts of every student. Please help us to ensure the safety of our students by notifying us of your child's absence or lateness using SafeArrival or calling the school office (905) 356-2801. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. A message may be left on voicemail anytime. Your co-operation in reporting absences will assist Mrs. Desilest immensely. If we do not hear from you, you will receive a call through the SafeArrival app and/or a call from our office. Also, students who arrive late to school (morning or afternoon) must report to the office to receive a late slip.

If you are changing your child's pick up routine for the day, the office must know by 2:45 pm, allowing us time to notify your child, as it gets busy near the end of each day. You may also communicate a change in dismissal routine in your child's student agenda.



SAFE ARRIVAL ON-LINE ABSENCE REPORTING

Whether it's an illness, a medical appointment or other important event, there are times when students may need to be away from school. Parents are encouraged to use the Safe Arrival system to report daily absences, and even schedule absences in one of three ways: Smartphone or tablet app, a toll free number, or website.

Families that have not previously registered to use the system, are encouraged to register by clicking the 'School Messenger—Safe Arrival for Families FAQ' link on our school's webpage: <http://cherrywood.dsbm.org> or by contacting our office.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular Attendance is vital to school success.

- ◆ Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- ◆ Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of Grade 3.
- ◆ By Grade 6, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- ◆ Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
- ◆ When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

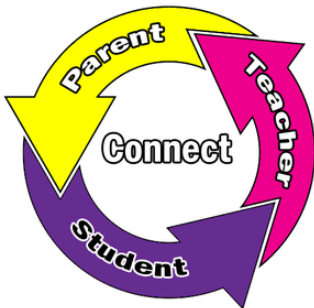
If you require some assistance improving your child's attendance, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.

STUDENT SAFETY — ENTRY AND DISMISSAL

- ◆ Students are to arrive at school **NO EARLIER THAN 8:45 a.m.**, as staff supervision begins at 8:45 a.m. each morning.
- ◆ Students must access gate openings using the sidewalks. **Students must not walk across the staff parking lot.**
- ◆ Students arriving after the 9:00 a.m. entry, are asked to enter through the front doors and check in at the office to receive a late slip.
- ◆ Should your child need to be picked up sometime during the school day for appointments, please come to the office and wait for your child to arrive at the office. We ask that you *sign out* your child in our binder to indicate that you have taken your child from school.
- ◆ Parents who are meeting their child at the end of the school day are asked to wait outside of the building to ensure the smooth and safe dismissal of ALL the children.
- ◆ **Parents who drive children to and/or from school are asked to practice “Kiss and Ride” (quick drop off and pick up), if using the staff parking lot.** If you need to park in the lot for an extended time (more than allowing your child to enter or exit your vehicle), please park in a designate parking space or on the road on Doreen Drive.

We can't wait to see you at our Meet the Cheetah Staff Open House!

***Tuesday, September 24th
4:45 to 6:00 pm***



Pizza provided by our wonderful Parent Council

Please remember that this is an informal event. If you would like to discuss specific concerns, please schedule an appointment with the teacher to ensure privacy and the teacher's undivided attention.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

All parents are welcome to join our School Council!

Council nominations will be held Tuesday, September 24th at 6:00 pm, in our school Learning Commons.
At this meeting we will conduct the election of this year's School Council Executive:
Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

2019—2020 CHERRYWOOD CHEETAHS STAFF

Ms. S. Cocco, Principal

Mrs. M. Desilest, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. C. Holder, Custodian

HOMEROOM TEACHERS		SCHOOL-BASED TEACHING STAFF	
Kindergarten Team 1	Mr. M. Folino Mrs. M. Schmagala	LRT	Mrs. A. Salvatori-Corapi
Kindergarten 2	Mrs. E. Jaynes	French	Mrs. R. Rocca
Grade 1	Ms. K. Sinclair	Teacher-Librarian	Mrs. R. Rocca Mrs. C. Stevens-Vaccaro
Grade 1/2	Mrs. E. DiCienzo	Prep	Mrs. C. Stevens-Vaccaro ?
Grade 3	Mrs. T. McDonald	SUPPORT STAFF	
Grade 4/5	Mrs. C. Cochrane	Educational Assistants	Miss K. Bowes Mrs. T. Hillhouse Mr. A. Longaphie Mrs. A. Mitchell Ms. H. Webb
Grade 4/5	Mrs. S. Faber	Instructional Coach	Mrs. S. Feduck
Grade 6	Mr. M. Snow	Youth Counsellor	Mrs. J. Niceliu
Grade 7	Mr. R. Stayzer	Social Worker	Mrs. S. Bennett
Grade 8	Mr. C. Smith	Primary Lunch Supervisor	Mrs. C.
Structured Strategies	Mrs. K. Durrant	Evening Caretakers	Mr. R. Bevington Mr. B. McAllister

CLASS ORGANIZATION

Please note that should student enrolment increase or decrease during the first week of school, we may need to reorganize our classrooms. It may be possible that your child's classroom assignment may change. The reorganization would become effective September 16th. I will keep you informed if students enrolment changes will result in a reorganization. I understand that this can cause some disruption and is a difficult process, but we will do our best to make the transition as smooth as possible. **Changes in class placement will only occur if a reorganization is necessary.**

IMPORTANT PAPERWORK—PLEASE RETURN BY SEPTEMBER 6

On the first day of school, your child will bring home a multitude of papers containing vital information. This will include:

Student Verification Report: Confidential Information Sheet **(return)**

Permission to Participate - DSBN Curricular (Physical Education) Athletic Program form **(return)**

An “Acceptable Use Agreement” which must be signed in order for students to use computers within the school **(return)**

Student Agenda form: \$5.00 payment requested (School Cash On-line is preferred)

Student Accident Insurance (mailed in by parents, not submitted to the office)

Please take time to carefully review and complete the required pages and return them with your child by Friday, September 6th.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SHEETS

You will receive a computer printout of your child’s information on file. Please check this and make any changes, fill in any missing information, and return it to the school. In the interest of health and safety, it is important that student’s medical and personal information is updated each year. Please let us know if any of the information changes during the school year to ensure we have the most up-to-date information.

DSBN CURRICULAR (PHYSICAL EDUCATION) ATHLETIC PROGRAM FORM

Physical activity is essential for normal, healthy growth and development. Growing bones and muscles require not only good nutrition, but also the stimulation of vigorous physical activity to increase the strength and endurance necessary for a physical active lifestyle. Active participation in physical education classes, which includes games, dance, gymnastics, and outdoor pursuits, provides opportunities for students to develop the skills and confidence necessary to play and work co-operatively and competitively with their peers. Students participating in the curricular (physical education) athletic program must complete a Permission to Participate Form. This form includes medical and personal information needed by a staff in case of an emergency. The DSBN Curricular (Physical Education) Athletic Program Permission to Participate Form must be completed annually in September and whenever there are any health changes to a student prohibiting or altering their participation in athletic programs. This form must be completed for every student in the DSBN participating in physical education athletic programs.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is an important part of our program and there will be many opportunities for learning using computers, video equipment, cameras, and more. To ensure student safety and appropriate use, we will take a three-fold approach:

- 1) Strict enforcement of the DSBN Acceptable Use policy (see form sent in 1st day package)
- 2) Educating students to use technology safely and responsibly, and
- 3) Ensuring technology from home doesn't come to school without both parent and teacher permission.

Students should not bring valuable personal property to school. Loss and theft are facts of life, and often these lost or stolen items are never returned to their rightful owner. Similarly, other items may cause unwanted distractions and/or confidentiality or safety concerns. Unless given permission by the teacher to complete school assignments or projects, all electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, ipads, cameras) must be kept in a student's backpack throughout the entire school day, including nutrition/fitness breaks. If any of these items are used during school hours, they will be confiscated and returned with the date to be determined as per each offence. Personal electronic devices are not the responsibility of the school. It is, therefore, best that such items be left at home.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Student Accident Insurance forms were sent home this week. Please consider purchasing this insurance as the DSBN does not provide medical coverage for students. Remember to send those insurance forms directly to the company. Do not return the envelope to the school. We encourage you to purchase this low cost student accident insurance that will protect your child from accidental injuries, particularly dental injuries.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Everyone has their own unique style and aesthetic. We celebrate student's individuality and respect their ability to express themselves. Our only expectation is that all students come to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment.

When deciding clothing, we ask that all members of our school community are mindful of:

- Health and safety concerns
- The dignity and well-being of all students and staff (i.e., clothing that is free of inappropriate or Discriminatory imagery or wording)

STUDENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION

Parents are responsible for notifying the principal or office, if your child(ren) has a serious medical condition, such as asthma, epilepsy/seizures, diabetes, or other medical conditions which could require medication or special safety measures.



A Plan of Care will be co-created with parents, Ms. Cocco, or her designate.

Parents who completed a Plan of Care last year, will be contacted to co-create the new Plan of Care. The previous Plan of Care will be implemented in the

In-term. **Please ensure your child has their inhaler or other medications at school (please check the expiration date).**

If your child requires any prescription medication that is to be administered at school on a daily basis, an authorization form must be completed by a physician. Forms are available at the office.

Medications of any kind must NOT be left in a student's backpack. Daily medications, administered at school, are to be kept at the office.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life threatening reaction to certain food substances and/or other allergen, such as bee stings. We have students in our school that suffer from a severe allergy to peanuts and tree nuts, which can cause an anaphylactic reaction.

Prevention is the best approach.

Therefore, we ask your cooperation in not sending your child with any snacks or lunches containing any nut products.

Parents are responsible for notifying the principal or, if your child(ren) has a **Severe allergy, which could result in anaphylaxis.** A Plan of Care—Anaphylaxis will be co-created with parents, Ms. Cocco, or her designate.

Parents who completed a Plan of Care—Anaphylaxis last year, will be contacted to co-create the new Plan of Care. The previous Plan of Care will be implemented in the in-term. **Please ensure your child has their EIPEN at school (please check the expiration date).**



AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS

Please inform the school if there are special custody orders for your child. Any relevant custody orders **MUST** be kept on file at the office. Please ensure that the school has the most recent custody orders for your child(ren) at all times.



SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. To respect your valuable time, we'd like to make it a little easier and less time consuming for you to connect with our school. We are continuing our partnership with School Cash Online, a portal that will give you the ability to keep up with school events using the device most convenient for you. Our parent community has always generously supported our school initiatives, which have included everything from field trips to athletics to fundraisers.

With School Cash Online, you are able to approve permission forms and make payments or purchase items (e.g., pizza tickets) online. Understanding that we're quickly becoming a cashless society, we know it can sometimes be a challenge to find exact change for items and then send it to school through your child's backpack. Using School Cash Online, you'll be able to use your debit, credit card or echeque to make quick and easy payments online. It will also allow you to track payments made and receive an invoice for your purchases.

School Cash Online is a safe, reliable portal that will ensure the security of your information. If you have not previously registered, you are able to gain access through the School Cash button on our website. Click the button and follow the simple instructions to register. Registration takes less than 5 minutes. If you require some assistance registering, please visit the office and we will be help you get set-up.

LUNCH EXPECTATIONS

All students staying for lunch at school will be eating their lunch in a classroom and will be supervised by school staff. Please be aware that all lunch rules are expected to be followed, such as cleaning up, demonstrating good manners, and self-discipline.

Grade 7 & 8 students are not permitted to leave the school property without written permission from their parent/guardian. Permission letters will be sent home.

Younger students are expected to remain at school during this time.

PIZZA & MILK TICKETS

MILK & PIZZA TICKETS may be purchased by using School Cash Online or at the office.

Ticket cost is: 10 tickets for \$10 OR 20 tickets for \$20



MILK (chocolate or white) 250 ml carton sold during BOTH Nutrition Breaks.



PIZZA (Cheese) will be available each Thursday during the SECOND Nutrition Break. Student leaders will circulate to classrooms Thursday morning to take pizza orders (number of slices) for that day. If your child will be late on a pizza day, please notify the office by 9:30 a.m. to order. This will ensure we have sufficient slices to fill all orders.

Our first pizza day will be Thursday, September 19th

Our pizza is ordered from Pete's Pizza.

TERRY FOX RUN/WALK & SUPER HERO DAY

On Friday, September 20th, Cherrywood students and staff will be participating in our annual Terry Fox run/walk at our school. In keeping with Terry's dream of raising money to support cancer research, we are encouraging each student to donate a loonie or toonie to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Terry was, and he continues to be a 'super hero'. We invite students and staff to dress as their favourite superhero on Friday, September 20th.

ROWAN'S LAW DAY

On September 25, Rowan's Law Day will be observed by our school. This is a day to increase awareness about the danger of concussions, and to positively promote injury prevention.

Rowan's Law was created after Rowan Stringer, a 17-year old student died after sustaining two concussions. Because she did not tell anyone about her injuries or how she was feeling with her family, coaches, or friends her concussions went untreated.

By observing Rowan's Law Day each year and educating our school community about concussions, we hope to promote a culture of safety at our school.

Purple was Rowan's favourite colour, so we are asking students to wear purple to school on September 25 – it could be a purple shirt, socks, a ribbon – something to represent Rowan.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2003. It grew out of Residential School survivor Phyllis Webstad's account of having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential school happenings annually. The initiative calls for every Canadian to wear an orange shirt in the spirit of healing and reconciliation. The was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes and placed in residential schools, and because it provides and opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. This year, DSBN will be recognizing this day on Monday, September 30th.

PICTURE DAY

School photographs will be taken throughout the day on Monday, October 7th. Additional information will be sent home regarding this. Our school photographer is Edge Imaging. Please try to avoid this date for appointments for your child, as we would like all students to be present for their picture.

STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED

In order to be environmentally friendly, this is the only month you will receive a hard copy of our school newsletter.

Please take some time to visit the Cherrywood Acres website.

<http://cherrywood.dsb.org>

Monthly newsletters and calendars will be posted at the beginning of each month.

You can also assess:

Links and/or information to support your child in various aspects of their learning; Safe Arrival; School Cash On-line; Niagara Student Transportation; School Year Calendar; and other relevant information.

If you would like to continue receiving a hardcopy newsletter, please return the following to the office:
Youngest Student(s) Name and Teacher: _____

All families not returning this slip agree to access the newsletter via our website.

