

# CHEETAH CHATTER

4635 Pettit Ave.  
Niagara Falls, ON  
L2E 6L4  
905-356-2801  
[cherrywood.dsbns.org](http://cherrywood.dsbns.org)



April 2021

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

With the arrival of spring, we always anticipate rain. On rainy mornings, students will be admitted into the school starting at 8:45 where our supervision will take place in the classrooms until our day starts at 9:00. We ask that you do not drop off our children prior to 8:45 as there is no supervision until that time.

We all know that April showers are on their way, which can leave our outdoor playground conditions wet and muddy. We encourage you to pack extra clothing your child's backpack (socks, pants, etc.). This will allow your child to feel more comfortable should they become wet or excessively dirty and save you a trip to the school with dry clothing.



## PARENT'S ROLE IN KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE

Everyone has a role to play in keeping families safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children on a daily basis before sending them to school. We ask parents to use this link: [Ontario Ministry of Education Covid-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool](#) to screen their child(ren) daily. It is important to remember that there is a low threshold for symptoms. If your child has even one symptom, they are to remain home and seek medical advice. Additionally, parents must have a person available to pick up their child right away, should they become sick during school. We thank our parents for being diligent with following the screening guidelines and being available to pick up your child when needed! **[Please make sure you have read through the screening protocol memo issued by Niagara Region Public Health that was sent via email on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.](#)**

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next School Council meeting is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. 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).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Good Friday ..... April 2
- Easter Monday..... April 5
- World Autism Day – Wear Blue ..... April 6
- Student Census for Kindergarten to Grade 6 Begins ..... April 6**
- World Health Day ..... April 7
- Holocaust Remembrance Day..... April 8
- Vesak Day..... April 8
- Deferred March Break Begins ..... April 12**
- Ramadan Begins ..... April 13
- Vaisakhi Sikh New Year ..... April 14
- Puthandu ..... April 14
- Solar New Year ..... April 14
- First Day of Ridván ..... April 20
- Sri Rama Navami ..... April 21
- Earth Day ..... April 22**
- Orthodox Good Friday..... April 30

## DELTA BINGO -GAMING



Even in these challenging times, Delta Bingo-Gaming continues to support our school community through their generous donations

We thank them for their continued and dedicated support of our Cherrywood Acres school community!!



## PLANNING FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

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 at the end of April so sharing this information with us now is very helpful for our planning for next year!

As you are aware from the memo sent out on March 10, we are planning for a regular school year in September 2021. This means in-person learning during regular school day hours, regular classroom schedules, and the return of extra-curricular activities and clubs. This will benefit our students' education and their mental health and well-being.

All students currently enrolled in DSBN schools will be automatically enrolled in their home school for 2021/2022. The elementary virtual school will officially close at the end of June 2021 and will not re-open in the fall. As always, parents with children requiring specialized programming will be able to review their individual circumstances with their home school principal in late August. If required, remote learning options will be available.

We can assure you that safety protocols will be in place in September 2021 as directed by Niagara Region Public Health and the Ministry of Education. Our planning for September 2021 will include contingencies should we need to revert to remote learning. The best place for students to learn is in-person, in their classrooms with their teachers and their peers. We look forward to sharing updates with you in the coming months.

## WORLD AUTISM DAY – TUESDAY, APRIL 6

April 2nd, 2021 will mark a historic day in Canada for the autism community. For the ninth year, Canadians will officially recognize World Autism Awareness Day.

On Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> we will Raise the Flag for Autism and we encourage all our families to **"Light it Up Blue"** by wearing blue to recognize this day.



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



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.dsbns.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/kindergarten](https://www.dsbns.org/earlylearners/kickstart/home). 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!

## 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.

## 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 team and is looking forward to connecting with families.

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES



# Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

### SCHOOL VACCINE PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR GRADE 7 AND 8 STUDENTS

- Unfortunately, due to school closures and redeployment of Public Health staff, grade 7 school vaccine clinics were cancelled in the spring of 2020 (current grade 8 students). Additionally, the vaccine clinics for current grade 7 students were also cancelled.
- Currently, grade 8 students remain eligible for publicly funded hepatitis B vaccine until Aug. 31, 2021
  - Students remain eligible for the publicly funded meningococcal vaccine (Men-C-ACYW) until the vaccine is received
  - Students currently in grades 7 and 8 can still receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for free until they finish high school
- Public Health is looking at opportunities to provide both grade 7 and 8 vaccine clinics throughout Niagara
- We will reach out to you when more information is available
- To learn more about vaccines or to report your child's vaccinations, visit: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/vaccinations/default.aspx>

### April is Oral Health Month!

- Public Health recommends that children's teeth should be brushed twice daily for two minutes with a pea sized amount of fluoride toothpaste to prevent cavities
- Children under the age of three should have their teeth brushed by an adult, using a rice grain sized portion of fluoride toothpaste until the child can spit out
- Parents and caregivers with children under six years should apply the toothpaste to the toothbrush and supervise to ensure proper brushing

For more information, visit [https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health\\_wellness/dental/prevent-cavities.aspx](https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/dental/prevent-cavities.aspx)

### School Dental Screening Updates

- Due to COVID-19, public health dental staff have not been able to provide school dental screenings in the 2020-2021 school year
- If your child is experiencing dental pain or discomfort, please connect with our dental program through the [Niagara Region Public Health dental website](#) or call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399

## CHILDCARE VIABILITY TEST – NIAGARA CHILDCARE REGISTRY

Each year the Niagara Region asks families to complete the viability testing through their online central registry. This is done to determine if sufficient need is demonstrated for a viable childcare program for before and after school to run in areas throughout Niagara. Please read [Letter to Families](#) - the Niagara Region Child Care Registry letter to families. As well as [Instructions to apply](#) for Before and After School Childcare through the [OneHSN](#).

Please note that families must register or update their childcare needs on the Onelist each year for their children in Kindergarten to Grade 6.

If you require technical support, please contact RBB Support line at 1-888-722-1540 or [support@onehsn.com](mailto:support@onehsn.com)  
For all other questions, please contact: Jackie Galloway, Supervisor, Early Year and Childcare Supervisor at [jackie.galloway@niagararegion.ca](mailto:jackie.galloway@niagararegion.ca)

## MY VOICE COUNTS: STUDENT CENSUS SURVEY 2021

The District School Board of Niagara believes that diversity is a source of strength and innovation. Our schools embrace and appreciate the values, identities and lived experiences of all of our students. The DSBN is committed to ensuring that everyone feels included and has a strong sense of belonging. This is why we're asking students and families to share their voice by completing our "**My Voice Counts**" Student Census Survey.

Collecting information through this survey will help us to identify, eliminate, and respond to systemic barriers to student success, create more equitable and inclusive school environments, and, further support student achievement and well-being in targeted and intentional ways.

The survey is voluntary, although we strongly encourage all students and families to complete it. The more responses we receive, the more effective the DSBN can be in supporting students moving forward. **The survey will take approximately 10 minutes and is entirely confidential.**

We are asking families of students in **Kindergarten to Grade 6** to complete the online "**My Voice Counts**" Student Census Survey, at home, for each student in their household, between **April 6-30**. Families will receive easy step-by-step instructions on how to access the survey by April 6<sup>th</sup>. To access the survey, you will use your child's secure DSBN username and password.

If you have any questions or need support in completing the survey, please reach out to your school principal or visit our website at: [www.dsbni.org/myvoicecounts](http://www.dsbni.org/myvoicecounts) where you will find our Frequently Asked Questions page and other helpful information. The survey will be available in English, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Korean, Hungarian, Spanish and Vietnamese. More information to follow.

Thank you for supporting this important work. Your support in sharing your child's voice will help shape the future of the DSBN.

## RAMADAN 2021

Some of our students are excited to be celebrating Ramadan and may benefit from accommodations while at school. Some possible ways we can help:

- alternate space during lunch and snack time
- reduced physical activity, or an alternate activity during gym class
- more time to complete classwork
- alternate arrangements for missed schoolwork

If your child is celebrating Ramadan and you would like to discuss how we can help, please call the school.

