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**September 2018**

**Welcome back et bienvenue!**

We extend a heartfelt welcome back to all of our students and their families as the 2018-2019 year begins. We hope that you have had a safe and relaxing summer and that you are looking forward to this new school year. We are very excited to join the Garrison Road community! We have found Garrison Road to be an overwhelmingly warm and welcoming environment full of individuals who are very committed to student learning and well-being! We look forward to working together with staff and parents/guardians to ensure a successful school year for the students of Garrison Road Public School.

We'd like to extend a big *thank you* to our caretaking staff and DSBN Facility Services for getting the school in great shape for the opening of the school! We'd also like to appreciate the work of our secretaries, Mrs. Brisbois and Mrs. Wright, who worked extra hard this past week registering new students and getting our office ready for September 4!

To share important messages and so that we may keep you informed about the

many activities and events at Garrison Road, we will be sending a newsletter home each month electronically (for those who have provided an email address and signed our CASL permission form to receive electronic communication) and it will be posted on our [web site](#). We will have paper copies available at the office too!

We feel strongly that communication is key to strong relationships with our families. If ever you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, decisions that have been made at the classroom or school level, or if you wish to voice a suggestion, please speak either to your child's teacher or to us!

Please mark September 20th (5—6:30 p.m.) on your calendars. Our *Open House* is a great opportunity for you to meet the staff of Garrison Road and visit the classrooms!

We wish you all the best for a great year and we look forward to meeting you at Open House, if not before!

Mrs. Racey & Mrs. Rice

**Anaphylaxis/Medical Concerns/Medication**

Because we have students who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts/nuts, we request that you avoid sending peanut or nut based food as snacks with your child to school.

In addition, due to other

food allergies, we request that you check with your child's teacher prior to sending treats to be shared with classmates.

If your child has any medical condition of which we should be aware, please

confirm that the school has this information.

Finally, if your child requires medicine during the day, please note that it must be stored at the office with instructions for administration.

## Emergency Preparedness Drills

The staff and students of Garrison Road will be participating in Emergency Preparedness Drills, including lockdowns, periodically throughout the year to ensure your child's safety. Goals of these drills include:

- reacting in a predictable way to unpredictable situations
- having all students and staff in a safe and secure area
- keeping hallways clear
- moving quickly and quietly
- developing specific plans based upon the needs of our school and students

Each classroom teacher will spend time talking with students about the procedures to be followed in the event of a lockdown situation. Classroom teachers will practice lockdown situations as a class, and then we will be having some school wide drills which will simulate various situations that could be encountered.



**“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.”**  
 Albert Einstein

## Class Placements/Reorganization

This year, our school has welcomed many new students to the Greyhound family. We are thrilled to have so many new friends! However, this may require some adjustments to our school organization. Although we use the Board's enrolment projections in

June to organize classes for the coming year, it is not until the new school year when we know the actual number of students that will be attending our school, and this sometimes makes adjustments necessary.

We will notify parents/guardians of any changes to the current organization by Friday, September 14, 2018.

## Custody Agreements/Court Orders

When couples separate or divorce, parents generally share custody of the children. Sometimes, however, other arrangements are made and clearly defined in a court order. The school cannot enforce these alternate arrangements unless we have a copy of the court order on file in your child's confidential Ontario School Record. If you have a custody agreement/court order of which we should be aware, please visit or call the school office to confirm that we have the most current copy on file.



## Confidential Information Sheets



During the first week of school you will receive a computer printout of the information we have on file pertaining to your child. Please check this and make any changes, fill in any missing information, and return it to the school as promptly as possible. In the interest of health and safety, it is important that students' medical and personal information is updated each year. Please let us know if the information changes during the school year! Please return all forms back to the school by Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

## Attendance Procedures

To ensure the accountability and safety of our students, we respectfully request that parents/guardians call the office (preferably prior to the start of the school day)

when their child is going to be absent. There is an answering machine if you wish to leave a message before the school opens. If a child is absent and no call is received, we use

our call-back system to account for these children.



## Parking Lot Safety

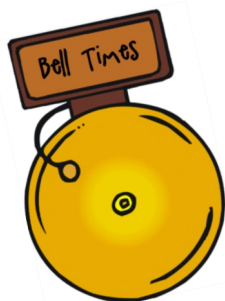
At Garrison Road we have very limited parking! While we work on solving that problem, we ask that you take extra care when using our parking lot at entry and dismissal. In our parking lot there are two lanes: one for busses and one for cars. We ask that if you are picking children up at the end of the day, you use the car lane and watch carefully for children who might be crossing. There will be an adult on duty at the rock seating area in front of the school and he/she will assist with getting children to their rides safely. We ask that you do not turn your car off as you wait and that you "circle around" if the need arises.

We ask that you please also refrain from parking in no parking zones and where there are not existing spots.



## Construction

As you will notice, there is some construction under way at the intersection of our driveway and Garrison Road. The Region is in the midst of a signal rebuild. Both contractor and Regional signal crews will do their best to minimize the disruption of pedestrian and vehicle traffic during school hours while keeping everyone's safety as their main concern. We will monitor the situation closely and maintain contact with the region but if at any time during construction you see any issues or have any concerns, please let Mrs. Racey or Mrs. Rice know!



## Bell Times

Entry	8:35 a.m.
Period 1	8:40—9:40 a.m.
Period 2	9:40—10:20 a.m.
Nutrition Break	10:20—10:40 a.m.
Fitness Break	10:40—11:00 a.m.
Period 3	11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Period 4	12:00—12:40 p.m.
Nutrition Break	12:40—1:00 p.m.
Fitness Break	1:00—1:20 p.m.
Period 5	1:20—2:20 p.m.
Period 6	2:20—3:00 p.m.
Dismissal	3:00 p.m.

## Nutrition Break Routines

Most of our students remain at school for lunch. Students who are picked up by a parent for lunch can do so during the 2nd Fitness/Nutrition Break (12:40-1:20). Students will not be permitted to leave school prop-

erty to purchase their lunch at the local businesses unless picked up by a parent/guardian. It is understood that those students being picked up during the nutrition break are under the supervision of their parent. The deci-

sion to stop the practice of students in grades 7 and 8 having the option to leave school property to purchase their lunches was made to ensure the safety of our students. This decision is supported by our School Council.



## Bus Safety—Please Review with Your Rider!

**At the Stop:** Be 5 to 10 minutes early, and stand on the inside of the sidewalk/ shoulder away from the roadway.

**When the Bus Arrives:** Line up in a straight line, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors to open, and never touch the outside of the bus.

**Getting on the Bus:** Get on the bus one at a time, hold the handrail as you climb the stairs, and go directly to your seat and get settled.

**Riding on the Bus:** Sit with your back to back of the seat and your bottom to the bottom of your seat with your school bag on your lap, and use your quiet speaking voice so that the bus driver can concentrate on driving.

**Getting off the Bus:** Stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop, only get off the bus at your school or at your bus stop, look for your parent/ guardian before you get off the bus if that is your routine, and always tell the bus driver if you do not see your parent/ guardian at the bus stop waiting for you if that is your routine or if you missed the stop.

**Crossing in Front of the Bus:** Watch and wait for the bus driver to signal to you to cross the road once it is safe to do so.

BILL 31 AMENDMENTS - HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

# NEW ROAD RULES IN EFFECT!

**A REMINDER TO ALL DRIVERS AND CYCLISTS!**

As of January 2016, all motorists must stop and yield the whole roadway at:

- Pedestrian crossovers;
- School Crossings where there is a guard displaying a school crossing stop sign.

Motorists can **NO** longer turn left, right or proceed through a crosswalk on the clear half of the roadway.

You now **MUST** wait until the entire crosswalk is empty of both pedestrians and the School Crossing Guard.



**S**top, when you approach a School Crossing Location  
**T**ake notice of whether there is a guard on duty  
**O**bey the Highway Traffic Act and wait for guard to completely exit the crosswalk  
**P**roceed with caution

THIS REMINDER IS BROUGHT TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOL CROSSING PROGRAMS ACROSS THE NIAGARA REGION:





## School Advisory Council

At Garrison Road we value the input of our parents and guardians! The Parent Council for the 2018-2019 school year will be holding its first meeting later this month. If you are a parent wanting to get involved or just simply want to learn about the Parent Council, please come to our first meeting on Tuesday, September 25 in the school library at 6:00 p.m. to approximately 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome! We are looking forward to a successful year, but cannot do it without you!

## DreamBox

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 have access to DreamBox Learning®'s Math Program. This is an online, Intelligent Adaptive Learning™ program that helps all students improve proficiency, conceptual understanding, and automaticity related to the K-8 curriculum. The student driven learning environment differentiates content, pace, and sequence for the high-

est levels of student achievement so every student can learn to think critically, understand deeply and have confidence in and life-long love for math. We strongly recommend that all of our students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 access DreamBox for about 60 minutes weekly and that sessions are at least 20 minutes in length.

Your child can access DreamBox Learning from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using the following link:

[https://  
play.dreambox.com/  
login/42cv/garrisonrp](https://play.dreambox.com/login/42cv/garrisonrp)

To access DreamBox on iPad, go to [http://  
www.dreambox.com/ipad](http://www.dreambox.com/ipad), or search for "DreamBox Math" in the App Store. Use this School Code: **42cv/garrisonrp**

*Note: Kindergarten login information is coming soon!*



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

On September 26, 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 26 – it could be a purple shirt, socks, a ribbon – something to represent Rowan.



## Garrison Road Staff

Since the end of school we have had multiple staff changes. Mrs. Graves has retired. Mrs. French and Ms. Marling have moved to other schools within the DSBN. Mme Annibale, Mme Davison, Ms. Fitzgerald, and Mrs. Reinhardt are all off on leaves. We welcome Mlle. Arnold, Mr. Garrah, Mrs. Milton, M. Reece, Mr. Timbers, Ms. Tisi-Strohak, and Ms. Vigna.

## Staff

L. McAlpine	KDG1
J. Tummillo	KDG2
A. Beteau (Stouffer)	KDG3
S. Mcphee	1-1
K. Vigna	1-2 (0.75)
P. Renshaw	2-1
K. VanHelvert	2-2
S. Thomas	3-1
E. Anderson	3-2
R. Barnhardt	4/5
M. Brewster	4-1
C. Wilcox	5-1
A. Schoonings	6-1
L. Sally	6-2
R. Gracey	7-1
D. Warkentin	8-1
M. Furry	8-2
J. Rossi	BRIDGE
N. Amato	SEF1
J. Arnold	SEF2 (LTO)
D. Garvey	SEF3
H. Wagnleithner	SEFS
K. Spurrell	SESP
T. Reece	Core French (LTO)
C. Cassidy	Teacher Librarian
R. Timbers	Prep (LTO)
T. Garrah	Prep
F. Beifuss	LRT
S. Traves	LRT (0.75)/Prep (0.25)

A. Foresi	EA
S. Severin	EA
J. Bervoets	EA
J. Meredith	EA
N. Hasmatali	EA (0.5)
B. Carver	EA
S. Thompson	EA
B. Garrels	EA
A. Marko	EA
L. Fretz	EA
B. Naundorff	EA BRIDGE
J. Tisi-Strohak	DECE (LTO)
A. Scheffold	DECE
W. Williamson	Head Caretaker
S. Foebel	Assistant Caretaker
H. Fisko	Assistant Caretaker
K. Brisbois	Secretary
A. Wright	Secretary
K. Racey	Principal
S. Traves	Vice Principal
C. Hartzema	Noon Hour Supervisor
H. Pollard	Noon Hour Supervisor
J. Pollard	Noon Hour Supervisor
M. Milton	Instructional Coach
J. Grundy	Youth Counsellor
L. Ralston	Social Worker

## Please mark your calendars...

- September 4—First Day of School!
- September 14—Early Release
- September 25—Parent Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.)
- September 26—Rowan's Day
- September 28—Terry Fox Day
- October 1—Orange Shirt Day
- October 16—Picture Day
- October 23—Grade 7 & 8 Vaccination Clinic

there are  
3 ways to  
ULTIMATE SUCCESS.

The first way is to BE KIND.  
The second way is to BE KIND.  
The third way is to  
BE KIND.

-Fred Rogers

**Elementary School Year Calendar 2018-2019**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

September 3, 2018	Labour Day
September 4, 2018	First Day of School
September 14, 2018	Early Release Day
October 5, 2018	Professional Development Day
October 8, 2018	Thanksgiving Day
November 16, 2018	Professional Development Day
December 24, 2018 - January 4, 2019	Winter Break
January 7, 2019	First Day of Class After Winter Break
January 18, 2019	Professional Development Day
February 15, 2019	Professional Development Day
February 18, 2019	Family Day
March 11 - 15, 2019	March Break
April 19, 2019	Good Friday
April 22, 2019	Easter Monday
May 17, 2019	Professional Development Day
May 20, 2019	Victoria Day
June 7, 2019	Professional Development Day
June 27, 2019	Last Day of School for Students
June 28, 2019	Professional Development Day

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## Early Release Day

It will be an *Early Release Day* across the entire District School Board of Niagara on **Friday, September 14th**. All students will be dismissed at **12:00 p.m.** which is exactly 3 hours early. This also means that busses will run (and drop off) exactly 3 hours early.

On that afternoon teachers will be planning and this is a day for re-organization in schools in which

re-organization is necessary.

Please mark this day on your calendar so that arrangements can be made for child care. The [2018-2019 Elementary School Year Calendar](#) can be found on the DSBNI web site. There you can find dates of holidays and Professional Development Days.