



GARRISON GAZETTE



Home of the Mighty Greyhounds!

From the Vice Principal's Desk

Ms. S. Cocco, Principal

Happy September everyone! We hope you all had a safe and restful summer and are as eager as we are to start our year off with a bang! The staff have devoted a great deal of their time in preparation for the upcoming year, and the classrooms look great! Mr. Irvine worked tirelessly this summer to get the school looking spectacular. Let's do our best to keep it looking this way! In addition to myself, we have several new staff to introduce to you this year. In the intermediate division, Mrs. Graves will be teaching Grade 8 while, Mrs. Gracey will teach the Grade 7/8 class. Mr. Salmon and Mrs. Thiessen will be providing prep coverage throughout the school and Mrs. McAlpine is teaching

Mr. J. Clarke, Vice-Principal

Kindergarten. We are also happy to welcome back Mrs. Chrastina from her maternity leave. Parents, please make daily use of the student's agendas. They are a great way to stay informed about what is happening in the classroom. If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We look forward to hearing from you and to working together to ensure our students succeed throughout this school year!

Have a fantastic September!

Mr. Clarke, Vice Principal

Start Up!!!!

Student Verification Forms

Please make the necessary changes and return the completed form, front and back to the school by Wednesday, the 14th. We absolutely must have on record, current phone numbers, correct address and contact information in order to reach you during the school day.

Netiquette Contract

Students from JK—8 are often able to make use of the internet during school hours. Parents, please take note of the Netiquette Contract that came with your start-up package, and go over the rules and expectations for internet protocol and safety with your children. Please complete the form, and send it into the school by the 15th of September.



Volunteer Driver Forms

Each year we rely on parents and grandparents to drive students to special events locally. These volunteer drivers help us to keep trip costs as low as possible. D.S.B.N. policy requires that we have volunteer drivers annually complete an information form, recording your drivers licence and insurance information before you transport students.



September 9th,
2011

Trustee for Fort Erie: Dave Shaubel,
Dave.Shaubel@dsbn.edu.on.ca
Superintendent of Schools:
Cam Hathaway
Cam.Hathaway@dsbn.edu.on.ca

We're on the Web!!

[www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/
Schools/GarrisonRoad](http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/Schools/GarrisonRoad)

Inside this issue:

<i>Student Insurance Informa-</i>	2
<i>'Anaphylaxis Awareness</i>	2
<i>Accommodation Review</i>	2
<i>Sports Teams & Clubs</i>	3
<i>School Council, & Transportation Information</i>	4
<i>Introducing this years Staff!</i>	5
<i>Balanced Day and Nutrition Break Info</i>	5

Accident Insurance

Is your child insured for medical or dental costs in case of an accidental injury? The District School Board of Niagara does not provide medical payment coverage for students. If you have no other coverage it is important that parents/guardians purchase this coverage to ensure that medical or dental costs are covered in case of accident. Reliable Life Student Accident Insurance forms have been provided to each student to assist you in getting coverage. It costs as little as \$2 per student for basic school day/school activity coverage. Completed applications and payment are to be sent directly to Reliable Life Insurance Company in the pre-paid envelope provided.



ANAPHYLAXIS AWARENESS

Please keep in mind that some of our students have a condition called Anaphylaxis - a severe peanut or bee sting allergy that can result in death. We are again asking parents in the Garrison Road School community to help us REDUCE THE RISKS for these students by avoiding sending any peanuts or peanut products to school for lunch / snack time for students throughout the school. **If parents and care-givers wish to bring in 'treats' for the class, we would ask that you bring in a copy of the ingredients list so that we can ensure that all our students can partake safely.** We appreciate the support and cooperation that we have received from the parents. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school.



STUDENT AGENDAS

Students in grades 2—8 will be bringing home a Garrison Road School agenda. These agendas are a great way to keep lines of communication open between home and school. Our Parent Association has subsidized most of the cost to our students. We are asking for a \$2.00 donation to the school to cover the remainder of the cost.

PLANNING TODAY TO ENERGIZE EDUCATION TOMORROW

The majority of school boards throughout Ontario are facing the challenge of declining enrolment because of changing demographics. Parents are having fewer children later in life, which reduces the number of students starting Kindergarten each year.

One way school boards can address the issues of declining enrolment and aging facilities is through accommodation reviews. Through this process, education can be rejuvenated by building some new schools, consolidating some schools, renovating some schools and closing some schools.

At their most recent meeting, Trustees passed a Facilities Planning Report which examines how to provide optimal learning spaces for students by initiating three phases of accommodation reviews. General Vanier, Rose Seaton, Garrison Road and Fort Erie elementary schools, all of which are located in Fort Erie, will be reviewed for Phase One starting this month.

Over the coming months, Board staff will begin to assemble an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). The committee will undertake an in-depth study of **Fort Erie's elementary schools** and provide recommendations that will help guide Trustees in their decision making. The ARC will include a business member and/or a municipal representative, parents, a trustee, and DSBN staff. All ARC meetings will be open to the public, and the public will also have an opportunity to provide feedback during specially scheduled public meetings.

Moving forward, our goal is to continue serving students with excellent programs. The accommodation review process will ensure that funding is spent on enriching the educational opportunities for students

The full report, along with information about accommodation reviews is available at www.dsbni.org/arc. Please contact your school principal for more information, or send an email to ARCs@dsbn.edu.on.ca.

School Teams & Clubs



We are extremely excited for our upcoming sports season this year. We have a incredible group of athletes in our school. Students are asked to listen attentively for announcements of where and when the various tryouts and practices will occur. As always, our school season will begin with such sports as Cross-Country, Intermediate Co-ed Soccer, and Intermediate Volleyball. We encourage students to actively participate in as many extracurricular teams/clubs as they can balance, in order to fully appreciate all that Greyhound life has to offer.

PIZZA DAY!

One again, pizza will be sold for \$1 a slice beginning September 16th. Orders will be due by the Thursday morning. This year, in compliance with the new provincial 'School Food and Beverage Policy', we will be serving pizza that is more nutritious, but just as delicious!



Snack Cart and Milk Program

Thanks to Mrs. Mahoney and our snack cart volunteers, we will soon have nutritional snacks available at nutrition breaks, as well as milk for 75 cents. If parents would like to pre-pay for milk, they can contact Mrs. Mahoney at the office.



Terry Fox Run

Students at Garrison Road will be participating in the Terry Fox National School Run Day on the morning of Friday, September 23rd. We are asking that all students donate \$1.00 toward the fight against cancer. Greyhounds, be proud! Together we have raised thousands and thousands of dollars for cancer research. Terry would be proud of us!



Picture Day!

Student photographs will be taken on September 16th. So remember to dress in your fancy clothes, and work on those smile muscles.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

School Council

The School Council and Parent Association are terrific way of becoming involved in our school community.

Come out to our first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 27TH beginning at 6:00 pm in the Staff Room.

Nominations for the 2011 - 2012 School Council need to be returned to the school by September 16th. The election will be held at the first School Council Meeting.

Our entire school community would benefit from your support. We hope to see many of you there!



Welcome Back Barbeque

From 5:00 to 7:00 on September 22nd, we will be hosting our annual Open House Barbeque, where we can all grab a bite to eat, and get to know others in our Garrison Road Family. Teachers will be providing information on curriculum, to provide parents with an overview of their child's academic program. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and learn how your child spends his/her day. We look forward to seeing you all there!



EARLY RELEASE DAY!

Friday, September 23rd is a scheduled **Early Release - Professional Activity Day** for staff. Students will arrive at school in the morning at the regular time. JK/SK students in the morning classes will take their regular busses home at their regular time. There will not be afternoon kindergarten program. Students from grades 1 through 8 will return home on their regular busses after period 3, at 12:10. Teachers will be engaged in team meetings and school growth planning throughout the remainder of the afternoon.

BUS/TRANSPORTAION REMINDERS

1) Students who are transported by bus Must take the bus to and from school at all times. Many bus students are choosing to walk home in nice weather. Please complete the form that was sent home in the first day package, which will then inform the office/teacher if this is going to be a regular occurrence. We are very concerned for the safety of our students due to the heavy traffic congestion on Garrison Road. We want to ensure that students have their parents' permission to walk home.



2) Transportation Policies set by our school board do not allow students to go home on any other buses than the one that has been designated as their regular bus for the school year. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office. We would be glad to discuss this matter.

3) Please note that, under no circumstances are parents to use the bus lane at the front (south) end of the school at any time of the day. Please use the parking lot to drop off or pick-up children.

Cell phones & iPods

With respect to technology brought to school, (iPods, cell phones, cameras, and laptops) please remember the following. The school strongly discourages students from bringing any of the aforementioned products to school. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged student property. Valuable property should be kept in a locked locker. Cell phones, iPods, etc. are not to be visible or utilized throughout the school building or property between 8:00am and 3:25pm, unless cleared with and supervised by a staff member. Should technology be required for instructional purposes (i.e. filming of skits, cell phone calculator, listening to books on iPods, etc.), then it is used under the direct supervision of the assigning teacher, for a particular lesson, and contained within the classroom or teacher designated area. Failure to follow these expectations will result in a consequence.

2010-2011 Garrison Road Staff

Principal :	Miss Sally Cocco
Vice Principal:	Mr. Jason Clarke
Secretary	Mrs. Brenda Mahoney
Caretaker	Mr. Luke Irvine
Junior Kindergarten	Mrs. Vanessa MacNally
Senior Kindergarten	Mrs. McAlpine
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Pam Renshaw
Grade 1	Mrs. Kelly VanHelvert
Grade 2	Mrs. Jane Tummillo
Grade 2	Mrs. Becky Chrastina
Grade 3	Mrs. Stefanie Traves
Grade 3	Mrs. Sue Thomas
Grade 4	Miss Helga Wagnleithner
Grade 4/5	Ms. Sharon Olesevich
Grade 5/6	Mrs. Antonette Mancuso
Grade 6	Mrs. Andrea Serianni
Grade 7	Mr. Chris Wilcox
Grade 7/8	Mrs. Rachel Gracey
Grade 8	Mrs. Sally Graves
Librarian	Mrs. Kelli Spurrell
French	Mrs. Dina Annibale
LRT	Mrs. Jodi Gates
Prep	Mrs. Lisa Thiessen
	Mrs. Joanne Zolli
Prep/French	Mr. Brendan Salmon
Prep/Music	Mrs. Eve Anderson
D&T	Mr. John Sherk
E.A.'s	Mrs. Bonnie Carver
	Miss Patti White
	Mrs. Sandy Severen
Youth Counsellor	Mrs. Tracy Hofland
Noon Hour Supervisors	Evelyn Park
	Kim Jamison
	Bev Pasincky

New Nutrition Break Routines

Most of our students remain at school for lunch. Students who are picked up by a parent for lunch will do so during the 2nd Fitness/Nutrition Break (12:45 – 1:30). Students will not be permitted to leave school property to purchase their lunch at the local businesses, unless picked up by their parent. It is understood that those students being picked up during the nutrition break are under the supervision of their parent. The decision to stop the practice of grade 7 and 8 students 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. .

Greyhounds are Balanced!

As a result of staff discussions and approval of our School Council, we have decided to adopt a balanced school day starting in September. The balanced school day schedule breaks the instructional time into three, one hundred minute blocks, with two fitness/nutrition breaks separating the blocks. Each fitness/nutrition break consists of 20 minutes “eating” segment followed by 20-25 minute outdoor activity time. This replaces the two 15-minute recesses and the 55 minute lunch. The most significant benefits of a balanced day are;

- **Balanced Nutrition:** Students who are nutritionally balanced can concentrate better and learn more effectively. A balanced day provides two opportunities during the school day when students sit down and eat together, rather than eating on the run at recess.

Maximizing of Learning Time: The new schedule provides significant blocks of intensive teaching/learning time without interruption. The three blocks of time provide teachers with more flexibility when planning and provide more opportunity to continue a lesson if needed.

Entrance	8:35 a.m.
Period 1	8:45 – 9:35
Period 2	9:35 – 10:25
<i>Fitness/Nutrition Break</i>	10:25 – 11:05
Period 3	11:05 – 11:55
Period 4	11:55 – 12:45
<i>Fitness/Nutrition Break</i>	12:45 – 1:30
Period 5	1:30 – 2:20
Period 6	2:20 – 3:10

Please refer to the attached Balanced School Day Basics information provided by the Niagara Region Public Health for tips on packing food for a balanced school day.

Garrison Road Public School is Going Green!

In order to help us be more environmentally conscious, and cut down on our schools costs, Garrison Road Public School will no longer be issuing monthly newsletters on paper. Our Newsletter will be posted every month on our school website. This has numerous advantages, on top of the obvious environmental and economic ones. Now, you will be able to view pictures and video's in colour, you can be notified of updates immediately, and there is no danger of losing the newsletter on the way home from school. If you do not have regular access to a computer at home, and would like to continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please indicate so on the note below, and return it to your child's teacher. Thanks for helping to keep our school lean and green!



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND ME A MONTHLY, HARD COPY OF THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER.

Name: _____

Name of Student: _____

Grade/Teacher: _____