



February 5, 2021

Good afternoon Princess Elizabeth families,

We are excited to welcome your child back to in-person learning on Monday, February 8.

Please review the information below to be prepared for a few new safety practices:

## **MASKS**

- Children in Kindergarten are encouraged to wear a mask, but they are not required to based on the Ministry of Education and Niagara Public Health recommendations.
- Children in Grades 1-3 will now be wearing masks in class and on the bus, just like their peers in Grades 4-8. We have masks for students who don't have one or who have lost or damaged theirs.
- When playing outside and unable to safely distance, students will wear their masks.
- We encourage students to come with a ziplock bag to keep their mask in while outside at recess. Masks will need to be worn when outside if physical distancing cannot occur. They will also need to wear it upon entering and exiting the building. Therefore a ziplock bag to store the mask in their pocket would be suggested.

## **ENTRY and DISMISSAL**

We will resume our entry and dismissal procedures which includes:

- Parents drop off at gates before school.
- Parents physically distance in the waiting area outside gates after school until the bell rings, then may enter to their child's designated spot.
- Students physically distancing and assembling in designated class outdoor

space.

## **NEW**

- Students in grades 1-8 will be required to wear masks once on school grounds.
- We encourage kindergarten students and parents to also wear masks.

## **DAILY COVID ASSESSMENT**

Even though we are back, it is important that you continue to do your child's daily self-screening before sending them to school. Here is a link:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

## **BORROWED TECHNOLOGY**

We loaned out a LOT of technology!

PLEASE be sure to bring back your technology on Monday.

Your child can take it right to their homeroom teacher.

## **VISITORS**

As has been our practice since school started in September, we will not permit non-essential visitors in our school. You can continue to drop off or pick up items for your child in the school foyer.

## **COVID TESTING**

You may have heard that schools may be offering COVID-19 testing. This will be implemented by Niagara Public Health and the Ministry of Education and will not be determined by the DSBN. As we receive information, we will keep you informed.

## **PA DAY and Long Weekend**

Friday, February 12th will be a PA Day.

Monday, February 15th is Family Day!

## **February Learning Options**

Although we are ready and excited for your child to come back, we understand that for a variety of reasons, you may not yet be ready to send your child back to school. That's okay. We want to be flexible with you to ensure your child keeps learning in an environment that you are comfortable with.

### **Alternate Options Available for In-person Elementary Students**

If you feel a little more time learning at home works best for you and your child, we encourage you to reach out to your child's Home School Principal to discuss other short-term home learning options that are available.

This could include DSBN Learn from Home Asynchronous online learning options or paper work packages, all while your child remains connected to their Home School and homeroom teacher.

These options will be available for up to 4 weeks, at which time families will have the opportunity to confirm their learning preference (either virtual or in-person) for the remainder of the school year, making it an ideal option for families who just need a little more time.

### **Next Steps**

If your child is returning to school for in-person learning, you do not need to contact the office. We'll see them on Monday, February 8.

If you are choosing to delay your child's return to in-person learning, please inform the school office as soon as possible by email or leaving a voicemail so that we can connect with you to discuss options.

As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have.

### **Don't forget!**

French Immersion Registration, Kindergarten Registration, and DSBN Academy information is all available through [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org).

**Attention all Gr 5 – 7 families - DSBN ACADEMY**

The Academy will be hosting a Virtual Open House on **Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** at **6 pm**, with program info, a virtual school tour, and a chance for families to ask questions.

**DSBN Academy Virtual Open House:**

<https://add.eventable.com/events/5fac4791d3fd1700b582ac85/5ff747c72c055b00cbcd73ab>

## **VALENTINE'S DAY**

**In order to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and families during the pandemic, we have had to scale back our annual Valentine's Day festivities.**

**We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Thursday and it will be RED WHITE and PINK DAY!**

**All of our current COVID protocols must remain intact during the day including:**

- *Food or treats for sharing are not allowed.*
- Physical distancing will continue to be expected and encouraged.
- Hand hygiene.
- Students in grades 1-8 must continue to wear a mask even during this special day.
- If you aren't feeling well, stay home.

## **VALENTINES**

We know the fun part of Valentine's day is sharing cards (or maybe the chocolate!). Teachers will be doing small appreciations in class.

Students will be allowed to exchange cards this year.

In order to share personal cards this year:

- Please include one for all students in the class.
- They must be at school by Thursday,
- They will not be opened at school, but will be sent home on Tuesday for families to enjoy with children.

**If anything changes, we will update you via School Messenger Email.**

**Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.**

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

**January 18 - ongoing** - Kindergarten registration - <https://www.dsbns.org/earlylearners/registration>

**January 4 - Feb 16** - French Immersion Registration for SK students - <https://fiapplication.dsbns.org/>

**February 11** - Wear red, white or pink day for Valentine's Day

**February 12** - PD Day - no school for students

**February 15** - Family Day - no school for students

## February Kindness/Caring Challenge

Our character trait for February is Kindness/Caring. We will be running a kindness challenge. Students will have the opportunity to complete 16 acts of kindness. Teachers will share the chart and a list of possibilities. Once they have completed their 16 acts they can email the checklist to [becki.falardeau@dsbn.org](mailto:becki.falardeau@dsbn.org) and [jaimie.sinnett@dsbn.org](mailto:jaimie.sinnett@dsbn.org) by **February 19th**. We will then draw for some lucky winners who will receive a skip the dishes lunch.

Here is a link to the chart and ideas:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UK4velk0-o7fZbli9LN1c3f5CF1Xkf8kPsW-kWobW0o/edit?usp=sharing>

As always we are always here to support. We are working from home but do check phone messages throughout the day. If you are in need of anything or need to reach out, email is the best way to reach us.

Feel free to email us at:

[jaimie.sinnett@dsbn.org](mailto:jaimie.sinnett@dsbn.org) or [becki.falardeau@dsbn.org](mailto:becki.falardeau@dsbn.org)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sinnett - Principal and Mrs. Falardeau - Vice - Principal

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