



VICTORIA PUBLIC SCHOOL

5635 HERITAGE DRIVE
NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO
L2J 4B3
905-354-1321
<http://www.dsbni.edu.on.ca/Schools/VictoriaS/>



SEPTEMBER 2016

GO WILDCATS !!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to the start of what promises to be another great school year and a special welcome to our new students and their families!

I hope that you have enjoyed the summer months. It is always a pleasure to see the children again, so eager to meet the challenges of a new grade level or to begin their elementary school career.

Both parents and educators want their children and students to be successful. Regular and open dialogue with your child's teachers will help identify ways we can best work together to ensure academic success.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions or concerns you might have.

To keep you informed about the many activities at Victoria, we will send home a newsletter and calendar each month. This will also be posted online on the school website

Successful students are products of good teaching, excellent academic programs and a solid partnership with the home. At Victoria, we are grateful to have such solid support from you, our parents. I am equally proud of the dedication of our school staff who work very hard to support your

children and provide stimulating classroom environments.

I would like to welcome back the returning staff to Victoria and to extend a special welcome to our new staff member, Miss I. Pokol (Grade 1/2 Teacher), who will be replacing Mrs. Lief-Gillies who is on a maternity leave.

All parents and their children are invited to our "Open House" on Tuesday, September 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. It's a great time to meet the teacher, tour the classrooms and connect with other Victoria families. Please make sure you fill in the "Open House" form and return it by Friday, September 9th so we know how much food to order for the event. I hope to see you there!!

Finally a sincere thank you to all the teachers and Mrs. V. McGrath, our secretary for all their hard work preparing for the start of the new school year and a special thank you to Mrs. D. Cyr, our custodian who has worked very hard over the summer getting the school ready for our September start up. The school looks fantastic!

The staff of Victoria look forward to meeting with you and your family in the near future.

Your partner in education,

Mrs. E. Tulloch, Principal

STAFF FOR 2015-2016

Principal	Mrs. E. Tulloch
Kindergarten	Mrs. S. Piazza
	Miss D. Lake (DECE)
Grade 1/2	Miss I. Pokol (LTO)
	Mrs. A. Lief-Gillies (Maternity leave)
Grade 2/3	Mrs. C. Quaranta
Grade 4/5	Mrs. I. DelGobbo
	Mrs. V. Milosavlevic
Grade 5/6	Mrs G. Fortuna
	Mrs. J. Bellinger
Music/Arts	Mrs. S. St. Pierre
L.R.T.	Mrs. V. Milosavlevic
E.A.s	Mrs. J. Bergen
	Ms. S. Byberg
Secretary	Mrs. V. McGrath
Head Custodian	Mrs. D. Cyr
Lunch Supervisor	Mrs. P. Irwin
	Mrs. T. Wiebe
	Ms. B. LaBatte
Youth Counsellor	Ms. A. Sample

SCHOOL TIMES

Kindergarten to Grade 6	
8:45	Entry
8:50 – 10:30	Instructional Block
10:30 – 11:10	Nutrition Break
11:10 – 12:50	Instructional Block
12:50 – 1:40	Nutrition Break
1:40 – 3:20	Instructional Block
3:20	Dismissal

VERY IMPORTANT

We will be sending home a number of important forms for completion over the next few days and we ask that you are diligent in completing and returning these as they affect the safety and well being of your child. Over the next few days we will be sending home a copy of the DSBN school year calendar, an enrollment form for optional insurance and a lunch form for you

to indicate what your child will be doing each day during the second nutrition break (i.e. staying for lunch, going home). Please send a note with your child if plans change for the second nutrition break on any given day. You are also asked to enroll as soon as possible for our online cash program. Instructions on how to enroll are being sent home separately.

Student Absences

For the safety of each of our students, it is imperative that we know the whereabouts of every child each day. For this reason, parents must notify the school if your child will be absent from school or arriving late. We ask that you phone the school at (905) 354-1321 prior to 8:40 a.m. You may leave a message on the answering machine at any time the night before or early in the morning.

If there has not been contact with the school, a note from the parent(s) is required upon the student's return.

Also, we must be made aware of any changes in routine (i.e. you will be picking up your child who normally rides the bus). Please contact the office about any changes, either by phoning or writing a note. Your child's safety is important to all of us!

Victoria Spirit Day

On Friday, September 9th we are asking all students to wear our school colours. Please dress in BURGUNDY and GOLD to show your school pride and spirit on that day!

Terry Fox Run

On Wednesday, September 30th, the students will be participating in the Terry Fox Run/Walk.

More information will be sent home closer to the event but parents are welcome to participate and join us that day.

Donations will be collected to help support the Terry Fox Foundation. We all know someone affected by this horrible disease so let's do our part to help this worthy cause and donate a Toonie or more for Terry!!!

Medication at School

Staff members are not permitted to administer medication to students without a written request by parents and a physician's authorization indicating the name, dosage, frequency, time and method of administration of the drug. Forms are available from the school office. This practice follows District School Board of Niagara policy. For safety reasons, please do not send any medication to school in the hands of your child.

Early Release Day

An Early Release Day is scheduled for Friday, September 16th, 2016. Students will be dismissed from school at 12:00 p.m. Bus students will be picked up 3 hours early at 12:20 p.m.

Welcome to New Families

We extend a very warm welcome to all of the families new to Victoria. We are glad you are here. Please take a moment to drop by the office to introduce yourselves.

Agendas

We will be using agendas in Grades 1 - 6. The cost of these agendas will be \$5.00 with the school subsidizing the remainder of the cost. Agendas can be ordered and paid for online. Being organized and completing assignments on time are positive life long habits. Let's start now. Parents are encouraged to go over the information

in the front of the agenda and the back of the agenda with their children.

Picture Day

The photographer will be in the school to take student's pictures on Tuesday, September 13th. More information will be sent home at a later date.

School Advisory Council

The council would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to another exciting year, especially the new families joining our school. The SAC is a very active group participating in many special events, fund raising and serves as the structure for the Principal and staff to obtain advice from the school community so that school policies, programs, services and procedures can be better adopted to serve the needs of students. It is a great opportunity to become involved in your child's education and the well being of our school.

The first meeting for this group will be held on Tuesday, September 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the Victoria staff room. All parents are welcome!

Insure Your Child or Accidents Can Happen

The District School Board of Niagara does not provide medical payments coverage for students. Reliable Life Student Accident Insurance forms have been provided to each student to assist you in getting coverage. 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. It costs as little as \$2 per student for basic school day/school activity coverage.

Electronic Gadgets

Electronic gadgets are not permitted at school.

Milk Program

This year we are again happy to announce that we will be working hard to make a difference by drinking milk. Last year we were able to give important support to a number of charities including the Humane Society and this year we will continue our Victoria School Cares tradition by supporting various organizations and causes. We will assign our small profit from our school milk program to these efforts, so we ask that you encourage your child to order milk to drink during their nutritional break. We will keep you informed of our efforts throughout the year.

Crossing Guard Reminder

There are no crossing guards for Victoria School. Please review safe crossing rules with your children.

Dress Code

Student dress should be appropriate to an academic setting and contribute to an overall positive image of our school. Hats or head coverings (bandanas, etc) are to be removed when entering the school. Head dresses or head coverings worn for religious or medical purposes are exempt. All tops must adhere to the "two finger" rule which is the approximate width necessary for all straps. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct in your child's agenda for further details.

Personal Belongings

In the interest of safety, bicycles are not to be ridden on school property. Students are also encouraged to have and use

locks to prevent damage or theft. Helmets are required. Other personal items such as radios, ipods, electronic games, cell phones, hard balls, scooters, roller blades, skate boards and wheeled shoes are not permitted on school property. For safety reasons, please leave these items at home.

It is important that you have your son/daughter's name inside all of their personal belongings. This should include clothing items, boots, lunch boxes and backpacks. This will help when items are found outside or in the hall. Junior students will be assigned a locker for the storage of their belongings.

Is Your Child's Immunization Up To Date?

Every September our thoughts are turned towards preparing our children for return to school. Have you thought about checking your child's immunization to make sure it's up to date for his or her age? Immunization is often neglected and that's why we remind you to check your child's yellow immunization card to make sure it is up to date. If you are unsure if your child requires any needles you can call the Regional Niagara Public Health Department at 905-688-3762, ext. 7396 and speak to a public health nurse.

Also, you are required to report your child's immunizations to the Public Health Department. So each time your child gets a needle you need to let them know about it. Call the Immunization Report Line at 905-688-8248, ext.7459. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is confidential.

Volunteers

Here at Victoria School there are many opportunities for parents/guardians to volunteer with our students and to support

the many activities and events that occur during the school year.

Some opportunities include supporting nutrition programs, assisting in our school library, coordinating fundraising activities and participating in supportive reading programs.

We see this as a wonderful way to build our school, family and community connections. We welcome all who are interested and available to please contact the office for a Volunteer Information Form.

Bingo Fundraising—We Need Your Help!

Your children benefit in many ways from funds received from the OLG through Bingo. Some of the benefits include supplemented school trips, performances, art lessons, dance lessons, equipment and supplies.

Without this donation, we would not be able to provide your child with these experiences.

If we don't have at least 2 people to help at each Bingo (there are only 12 sessions throughout the year), we will lose this source of funds for the school. It is a small commitment of your time (only 2 1/2 hours per session) that makes an invaluable difference to school life for our students.

We do have some volunteers but we still need a few more. Even if you can only help out at one session, please let us know by contacting the school office.

Please be aware that the next training dates for Bingo volunteers are:

Wednesday, September 14th, Tuesday, October 11th and Wednesday, October 26th at the Gale Centre at 6:30 p.m. sharp. Training is also available at the Stamford Centre Volunteer Firemen's Clubhouse at Fireman's Park on Wednesday September 28th and Wednesday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering and these dates don't work for you, please contact the Victoria School office (905) 354-1321, and we will arrange a training session to be held at the school at a time convenient to you.

School Organization

The classes have been organized according to the number of students we had registered in each grade the week before school began. Due to movement over the summer, new registration on the first day and the Ministry of Education's primary class size cap, reorganization may be necessary over the next two weeks and some movement of the students and staff could occur. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

DSBN Parent Involvement Committee Conference 2016

Mark your calendar for the 2016 DSBN Parent Involvement Conference, November 2nd at Eden High School in St. Catharines. Join us for an evening of free workshops for parents of DSBN students of all ages. For more information about the event, please visit www.dsbn.org/pic