

# The Cougar Chronicle



## Martha Cullimore Public School

3155 St. Andrew St.  
Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2R7

Principal:  
T. Chilcott

### Important Dates:

#### September

- 14 Terry Fox Walk
- 17 to 21 Book Fair
- 19 Open House BBQ
- 25 School Council Meeting 6pm
- 26 Rowan's Law Day
- 28 Celebration Assembly

#### October

- 01 Orange Shirt Day
- 02 Photo Day
- 04 Fall Festival Fundraiser
- Scarecrow Building
- Bake Sale
- Walk-a-thon

## Welcome Back To School!

We have been anticipating the start of another great school year. A warm welcome is extended to all students, parents and staff who are returning. If you're new to our area, we extend a special hello to you and hope you enjoy your year with us! We have a tradition of high academic standards and positive school participation and, we as a staff, expect our students to work at their best to achieve their best results in all endeavours. We look forward to getting to know each student and celebrating their unique accomplishments. I encourage parental interest, support and participation as we form a team that supports students to reach their full potential. We look forward to working closely with you as we ensure the best possible education for all our students.

## Go Cougars!

If you are a Cougar, you know how to work hard and have fun! There is so much going on at Martha Cullimore that makes it the very best place to be each day...from Colour House Huddles to end-of-month celebration assemblies for students and parents, and all of the learning, sports, clubs and community events that happen in between! We are excited about seeing you and your family out for the many venues we will provide throughout the year. Please keep updated by logging onto our school website at <http://marthac.dsbni.org/> and reading our newsletters monthly. You and your children are the most valued members of the Martha Cullimore community. We want you to have a rich and dynamic school experience!

Each student at Martha Cullimore belongs to a special cross-graded colour-house team and remains an important member for their entire school career! Again this year, students will wear coloured T-shirts with two important words across the front, "I Matter". Every individual who steps foot in our school matters, has worth and is valued for what they contribute to our school family. Martha Cullimore is a place where all cougars belong! It is our intent to strengthen this sense of worthiness and belonging as we meet at Colour House Huddles each month and go about our daily work. We will wear our colour house T shirts for our annual Terry Fox fundraiser on the 14th. **Colour House T shirts can be ordered through School Cash Online, but may not be ready by September 14.**

Have a great start, Cougars! I'm proud to be a part of this great school!

Mrs. Chilcott

## Rowan's Law Day – September 26th

This is a day to engage students in activities that increase awareness about concussions, promote a culture of safety and share Rowan's story. Rowan Stringer was a 17-year-old athlete who loved playing rugby. After sustaining a blow to the head during a game and not sharing her experience with her coach, she collapsed and died four days later. Together, we will promote understanding and injury prevention.

## Orange Shirt Day – October 1st

At DSBN, we will observe Orange Shirt Day on Monday, October 1, 2018. Orange Shirt Day grew from the story of a woman who had her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of residential school. It is an opportunity to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.



**Classroom Organization for 2018/2019:**

- Kindergarten – Mrs. Hollemans, Mrs. Empey
- Kindergarten – Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Camillo
- Grade 1/2 – Mrs. Edwardson
- Grade 1/2 – Mrs. Reid
- Grade 2/3 – Mrs. Lane
- Grade 3/4 – Ms. Jane
- Grade 4/5 – Mrs. Dinga
- Grade 5/6 – Mr. Bootsma
- Grade 6 – Mrs. Hopkins
- Grade 7/8 – Mr. Fortuna
- Grade 7/8 – Mrs. Ibey
- French & Prep – Mme. Michaud
- LRT & Rotary – Mr. West
- Kindergarten & Rotary – Mrs. Lopez
- Library – Mrs. Brennan
- E.A. – Miss Richardson
- E.A. – Miss Hughes
- E.A. – Miss Costabile

**School Bell Times**

Martha Cullimore entry and dismissal times will be the same for next year. The school bell times will be as follows:

- 8:15 a.m.** Bus arrival
- 8:30 a.m.** School entry for all students
- 8:35 - 10:15 a.m.** Teaching Block 1
- 10:15 - 10:55 a.m.** Fitness/Nutrition Break
- 10:55 - 12:35 p.m.** Teaching Block 2
- 12:35 - 1:15 p.m.** Fitness/Nutrition Break - students may go home to eat
- 1:15 - 2:55 p.m.** Teaching Block 3
- 2:55 p.m.** Dismissal for all students

**There is no supervision on the playground after school.**

Mrs. Houde and Mrs. Cunningham will continue as head and evening caretakers respectively and Mrs. Lamb will be our administrative assistant.

**Important Paperwork – Please Return ASAP!**

During this first week of school, your children will be bringing home a multitude of papers containing vital information. This will include:

- a Trillium Verification Report (due back to the school by Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>);
- school accident insurance information;
- “DSBN Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement form” which must be signed in order for students to use computers within the school; and
- a ‘Permission to Participate’ form for Physical Education (mandatory)
- Lunch Permissions Form
- School Council Nomination Form
- Open House BBQ pre-orders

Please take a few moments to carefully complete the required pages and return them with your child as soon as possible. Many thanks!

**Open House BBQ**

**Wednesday September 19 - 5:30 to 7:00pm**

**5:30 - BBQ**

Please return the BBQ preorder form.

**6:00 - Class Visits & Book Fair**



**Book Fair**

Week of September 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>!

This is a great opportunity to find highly engaging, current titles at reasonable prices. All of our students will have a chance to visit the book fair during a scheduled visitbreak. Scholastic donates a portion of their proceeds back to our library so this is a great way to support our library collection as well!

**Spirit Wear & Phys. Ed. Uniforms**

Available for order in September! Try on sizes at the Open House. Order through School Cash Online by September 21<sup>st</sup>! See flyer online soon!

## New Cougar Logos!

We are excited to showcase our new Martha Cullimore logos this fall! These will be available on spirit wear and Phys. Ed. Uniforms. You can purchase a uniform for \$20.00!



## We are Nut and Scent Aware

Please DO NOT send food to school that contains nuts. We have students with life-threatening allergies. It is our policy that students do not exchange or share food for the safety of all. If staff notice a student with a nut product in his/her lunch, the product will be taken to the office, disposed of, and exchanged for another non-nut-containing food. In addition, we have students with sensitivities and allergies to artificial scents (perfumes, deodorants, colognes, body sprays, etc.). Kindly choose odorless options for hand creams, sanitizers and deodorants to allow every child to enjoy a comfortable learning environment.



## Arrival and Dismissal Routines

Supervision before school begins at 8:15 a.m. Parents are asked **NOT** to drop off their children prior to 8:15 as there is no supervision on the playground until that time. Kindergarten students will remain at the north-east end of the school (front yard) until entry. All other students (Grades 1-8) should report to the school yard at the back. We are asking parents to drop off their children before school and pick them up at dismissal, by waiting just outside their official entry/exit doors. The students will be expected to use these doors as a regular part of their routine each day. Allowing students to enter and exit independently will foster their sense of independence. For those older students with Kindergarten siblings, we are happy to arrange one pick-up location for parents/guardians. Please speak with your child's kindergarten teacher or Mrs. Chilcott if this is the case. Any children not picked up promptly at the end of the day will return inside the school to wait at the office until their transportation arrives. We appreciate your cooperation and promptness with drop off and pick up times.

<p>K – front north-east kindergarten doors          Gr1 to 2/3 – west primary doors (mid-tarmac)          Gr 4 to 8 – south-west junior doors (back tarmac)</p>
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## Visitor Sign In

We ask all parents/guardians and other visitors (including co-op students, older siblings, etc.) who wish to enter the school building at any time to comply with the Ontario Ministry of Education's Safe Schools guidelines. To ensure student safety and to meet the Ministry's guidelines, all parents and visitors must:

1. Only access the school through the front door.
2. Check in at the office before going into the hallway or a classroom.
3. Sign in using the "Visitor Sign In" book located in the main office.
4. Use washrooms designated for adults, as student washrooms are for children only.

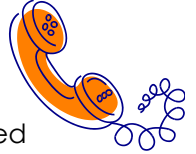
It is our hope that the 30 seconds it takes to sign in will not inconvenience or hinder our wonderful parent volunteers and visitors to the building. We welcome your presence at Martha Cullimore! Thank you for your support in this matter of student safety.

## Volunteers

We encourage volunteer help in all aspects of our school program. Please consider being a school volunteer (i.e., classroom assistance, pizza day helper, reading volunteer, etc.). Please notify your child's teacher or call us at the office if you are interested.

## Absences, Lates and Attendance Calls

Please help us to ensure the safety of our students by calling when your child will be absent or late to school. Office hours are 8:00a.m. to 3:30p.m. Outside of these hours you may call anytime, day or night, and leave a message on our answering system. The number is 905-358-5142. We always need to know the whereabouts of each and every student. Your co-operation in calling us will assist our office staff immensely! If you haven't called us, we'll be calling you. We will call your home first, followed by your place of business, and if necessary the numbers you have listed as emergency contacts. Also, all students who arrive late to school (any time during the school day) must report to the office to receive an admit slip. In addition, students leaving at any time during the school day will be required to sign-out at the office.



## Let Us Take Care of That!

If you are dropping off items for your child (lunch, homework, clothing etc.) please leave them at the office and let staff take care of delivery. We will see that your child receives them.

## Student Medications

The safety of all students is of great importance to every staff member and parent. Any over-the-counter and prescribed medication that is to be administered to students at school must have an authorization form completed and on file. Forms are available at the office and via our website. Medication must be in the labelled prescription bottle, with name and dosage information clearly marked. Over the counter medications must also be in the proper container with dosage information clearly marked. Medications of any kind must NOT be left in students' backpacks. If your child requires any medication, please bring the medication to the office and we will review the completed form. Any medical conditions or concerns MUST be brought to the attention of Mrs. Chilcott or Mrs. Lamb. A form entitled "**EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**" needs to be completed for highly allergic [anaphylactic] children and asthmatic children. These forms are kept with the necessary medication in an appropriate area of the school and the names and photographs of affected students are compiled so that all staff are aware of our students' medical concerns. Epi-pen training is provided to our staff by our school nurse from the Niagara Regional Health Department every October.



## Cell Phones and Technology

Students are not permitted to use or wear a personal music device during classes or breaks or on the school yard. The DSBN policy on cell phone use requires that students turn off cell phones on school property. **Students with cell phones are expected to have them stored securely (locked in a locker) and turned off while at school.** For privacy reasons, students should not bring cameras to school, and cameras on phones must not be used. **Students are discouraged from bringing these devices to school, unless they are for a specific instructional purpose in which case students will be directly supervised. In this instance, a letter home to parents will outline the intended purpose, timeline and specific guidelines for educational use.** Please note that the school assumes no responsibility for the safety of these items.

Students are able to use the office telephones with a phone pass from their teacher. Our phones are also available for student use in the event of an emergency.

## Custody Orders

When couples separate or divorce, parents generally share custody of their children. Sometimes, however, other arrangements are made and set out in a court order. The school cannot comply with these alternate arrangements unless we have a copy of the court order on file in your child's *Ontario School Record*. Should you have such a court order that we should be aware of, please speak with Mrs. Chilcott and share the most current copy with the school office.

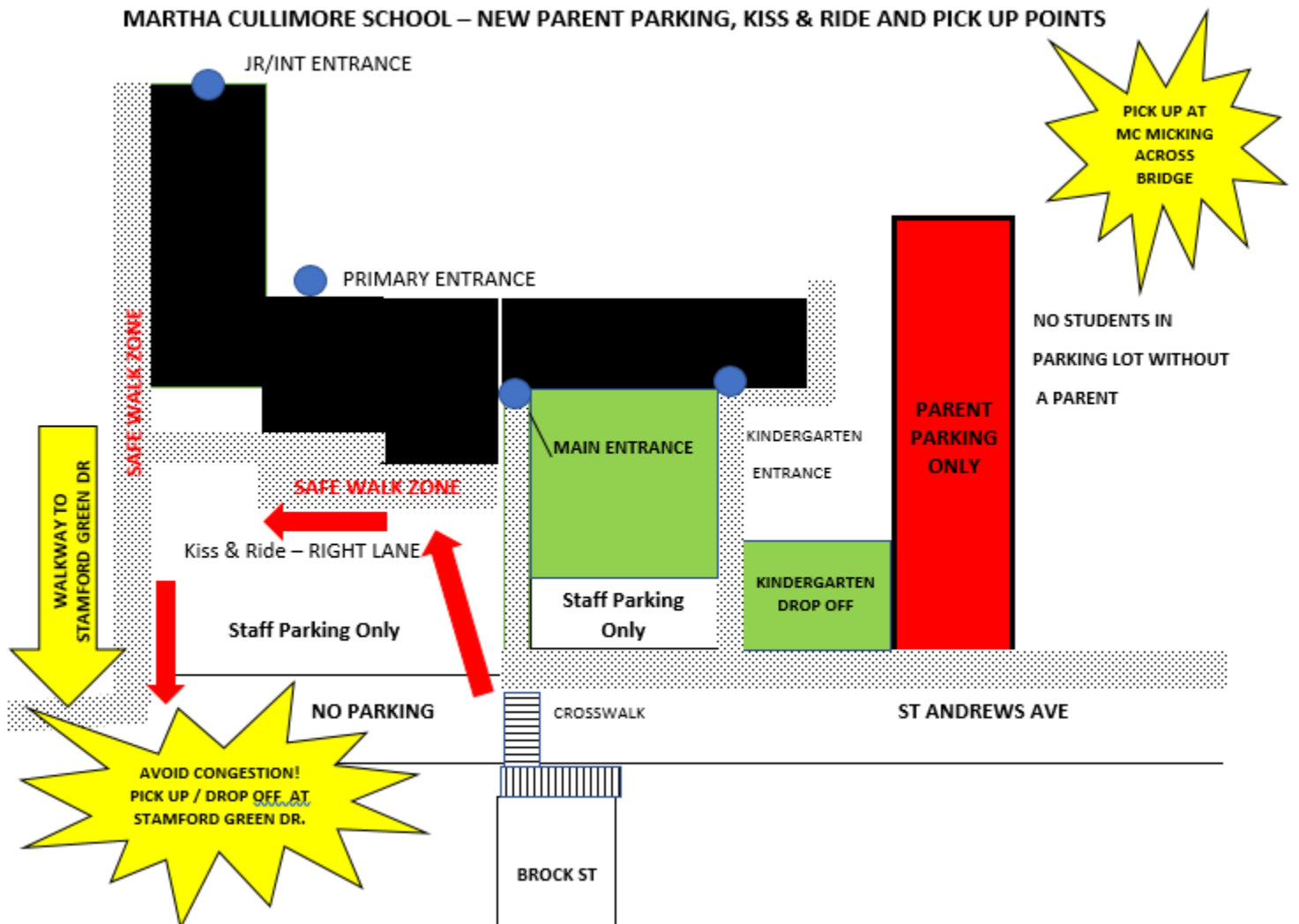
## Parking Lot Safety

We recognize that Martha Cullimore is a busy school with wonderfully involved parents. Often that means that the parking lot is busy, too! In order to ensure the safety of our students at each dismissal time, we require all visitors to our parking lot to follow parking lot guidelines:



- Students must use proper walkways and meet parents before entering the parking lot. All students must be directly supervised by parents when in the lot.
- Drivers wishing to drop students off directly onto safe sidewalk zones should use the Kiss & Ride lane at south end of the parking lot ONLY. There is access to a school sidewalk from that location directly to the back yard. We will continue to monitor how this arrangement is working.
- Never park in the through lane of the Kiss & Ride area.
- Never park in the area adjacent to the bus lane.

Students are not permitted into the parking lot at any time without an adult. Convenience or timesaving is never worth the cost of a life. We ask that parents please meet their children at their exit doors and then escort them safely to the car. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and vigilance in ensuring the safety of our students.





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:





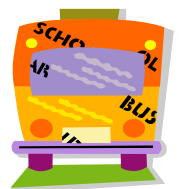







## School Bus

Parents, please do not give your son/daughter permission to bring a friend home with them on the bus. The bus company would appreciate your support, as the teachers who are on bus duty, and the bus drivers will have no choice but to tell the students "No", they cannot get on the bus. Also, proper and acceptable behaviour on a school bus is critical to making every child's bus ride safe.



## 2018 Back to School Student Transportation Information

Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) is a consortium between the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board. The mandate of NSTS is to plan and administer safe, efficient and effective transportation services for the students of Niagara.

On **August 20, 2018** NSTS posted specific back to school transportation arrangements for each student enrolled at the school boards, including bus route numbers, stop locations and times. Eligibility information is also available through the portal and walking directions are available if your child lives within the walk zone of the school and is not eligible for transportation service.

Please visit [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca) and sign-in to the secure parent portal to get your child's student transportation information. To sign-in to the portal you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN) which can be found on their report card. While signed-in, please subscribe to the delay and cancellation module for direct and timely emails regarding student transportation that impacts your child.

Changes to home, pick-up or drop-off addresses must be made through your child's school. NSTS is not authorized to change student address information.

### Changes for Kindergarten Transportation, Opt-In

There is a new process requirement for Kindergarten students eligible for transportation, to opt-in to receive service for the 2018-19 school year.

In June, NSTS mailed letters home to all newly registered Kindergarten students with a PIN number to log-in to the secure portal to opt-in to receive services. Transportation arrangements were made available in the portal when it opened on August 20, 2018. Kindergarten students not listed on the bus driver's route copy will not be able to ride the bus. This new process is intended to improve safety for Kindergarten students, specifically during back to school.

### Must Be Met at Stop Tag Program

At the start of the school year, each kindergarten student who rides the bus will have a "Must be Met at Stop" tag attached to his/her backpack. The Must Be Met at Stop tag program is mandatory for Kindergarten students. Parents with students in any grade may opt-in to the tag program upon notification to the school to equip the student with a tag, and the school needs to notify NSTS to reflect this request on the bus route manifest for the driver.

### Tips for a Safe and Happy Bus Ride

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.

## Dressing for Success at Martha Cullimore

The way students dress sets a tone in the classroom and hallways. Our underlying principle is that students should come to school dressed for work, not for a trip to the beach or the mall. The consistent enforcement of our dress code will enhance our educational environment, help create a tone conducive to the achievement of excellence and contribute to an overall positive image of our school.

### Please keep in mind:

- Tank tops need to have a strap of at least 3 finger widths
- All apparel should be free from inappropriate language/pictures
- Shorts must be an appropriate length (mid-thigh)
- Undergarments should not be exposed
- Hats and sunglasses are appropriate at recess, but not indoors
- **Shoes must be worn** indoors due to safety/fire regulations

If students do not comply with the dress code, they will be asked to change, find a sweater to wear and/or remove inappropriate items. In the event of the student not having any accessible appropriate clothing, a phone call will be made to the parent(s) and the student will remain at the office until appropriate apparel is available.

## School Advisory Council

If you are interested in becoming more actively involved in your child's education and the inner workings of Martha Cullimore Public School, we encourage you to join our **School Council!**

This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. to discuss current issues, educational trends, and the future of our school. We welcome new members!

Please consider joining us at our first meeting on **Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.** We will be electing our executive and establishing our general membership during this meeting.

Look for our School Council Members at the Meet the Teacher Event or contact the school office if you'd like further information. A council nomination form is in the forms package (self-nomination is permitted) for your convenience.

## Early Release Day: September 14

On the early release day, all K to Grade 8 busses will arrive to pick up students three hours earlier than the regularly scheduled bus departure times. Dismissal is at 11:55am.



## Terry Fox Walk-a-thon

During the month of September we will be holding a fundraiser for Terry Fox and Martha Cullimore in the form of a walk-a-thon on Friday, September 14th. A donation of a toonie is appreciated.

## Photo Day

Martha Cullimore students will have their individual photos and class pictures taken on October 2nd. Please come dressed in bright or light colours, bring a comb if necessary and remember to wear your best smile! Retakes will be on November 1st.



## Niagara Elementary Instrumental Music (NEIM)

Attention all students in grades 4 to 8! Do you want to learn to play a musical instrument? Niagara Elementary Instrumental Music provides weekly in-school lessons as well as band and orchestra rehearsals. We are currently



accepting registrations for Instrumental Music lessons for the 2018/2019 school year. More information is available at [www.freewebs.com/niagaramusic](http://www.freewebs.com/niagaramusic), by calling **(905) 641- 2929 ext 52296** or emailing [elemus@dsbn.org](mailto:elemus@dsbn.org).

## Student Organizer

All students in Grades 1 to 8 have been provided with a customized planner. This is an ideal tool for both organization and communication. We are asking that each student pay **\$6.00** toward the cost of the organizer as soon as possible.

Please take a few minutes to discuss the importance of using the organizer faithfully with your son/daughter. Look over the *Code of Conduct* information presented in the organizer and talk about it with your child at an age-appropriate level. Also, please ensure that you and your child build a routine around signing the agenda and putting it back in the backpack daily. This will help tremendously. Your support in this important matter is appreciated!



# remind



Would you like to be reminded of upcoming events at Martha Cullimore? Join Martha Cullimore's Remind in order to receive one-way update messages directly to your cell phone. Remind is a free service that lets the school send quick messages via text, push notifications, or email to everyone at once. You can stay in touch without revealing your personal contact information. Signing up for Remind is easy and is intended for parent use only. For Terms of Service, please visit <https://www.remind.com/terms-of-service>.

To receive text messages:

Step 1. Enter the number: 289-804-1235 (This is a telephone number used for Remind. Personal Phone numbers are not shared or visible to the school.)

Step 2. Text this message: @marthacu (This code is unique to Martha Cullimore.)

Step 3. You will receive a welcome text from Remind and be prompted to reply with your name so that you can be added to Martha Cullimore's Remind system.

We look forward to keeping you connected at Martha Cullimore.





# Elementary School Year Calendar 2018-2019



September							October							November							December							January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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February							March							April							May							June						
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24	25	26	27	28			24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30	31	23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29		

Professional Development Day
  Holiday
  Early Release Day

### 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