

The Cougar Chronicle



Martha Cullimore Public School

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

Principal:
T. Chilcott

Important Dates:

September

- 13 Terry Fox Walk
- 13 Early Release Day
- 17 to 19 Book Fair
- 18 Open House BBQ
- 24 School Council Meeting 6pm
- 25 Rowan's Law Day
- 30 Orange Shirt Day

October

- 01 Photo Day
- 10 Fall Festival Fundraiser
- Bake Sale
- Turkey Trot Walk-a-Thon
- Pumpkin Roll
- 11 PD Day
- 14 Thanksgiving
- 18 Dental Screening

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 class celebrations, 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 13th. **Colour House T shirts can be ordered through School Cash Online, although they may not be ready by September 13th.**

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

Mrs. Chilcott

Rowan's Law Day – September 25th

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 – September 30th

At DSBN, we will observe Orange Shirt Day on Monday, September 30, 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.



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 7th);
- 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!

Spirit Wear & Phys. Ed. Uniforms

Available for order in September! Try on sizes at the Open House. Order through School Cash Online by September 20th! See flyer online soon!

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



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.

Open House BBQ Wednesday September 18 - 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 17th to 20th!

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!

Celebrations, Character & Colour House Huddles

This year, our monthly student colour house assemblies will be focused more intently on developing character and supporting a deeper sense of togetherness. Monthly students of the month from each class will be celebrated uniquely by each teacher in the classroom.

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.

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 when possible 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.

K – front north-east kindergarten doors
 Gr1 to 3 – west primary doors (mid-tarmac)
 Gr 4 to 8 – south-west junior doors (back tarmac)

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.

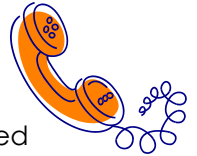
It is our hope that the 30 seconds it takes to sign in will not inconvenience or hinder our wonderful parent volunteers and visitors to the building. We welcome your presence at Martha Cullimore! Thank you for your support in this matter of student safety.

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 and Plans of Care

The safety of all students is of great importance to every staff member and parent. Any medical conditions or concerns MUST be brought to the attention of Mrs. Chilcott or Mrs. Lamb. A form entitled "Plan of Care" MUST be completed for children with Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Epilepsy, Diabetes, or any other pertinent medical condition. These forms are kept with any necessary medication and in an appropriate area of the school. The names and photographs of affected students are compiled so that all staff are aware of our students' medical concerns.

Prescription Medication

In exceptional cases in which a student must have medication administered during school hours, an Authorization of Administration of Oral/Topical Medication form will be completed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Health Care Professional, and be forwarded to the Administrator prior to the administering of any prescription medication. Forms are available at the office and via our website. Prescription medication must be in the labelled prescription bottle, with name and dosage information clearly marked. If your child requires any medication, please bring the medication to the office and we will review the completed form.

PRN "As Needed" Prescription Medication

Prescription medication that is to be administered to students on an "as needed" (PRN) basis must be documented in a Plan of Care in addition to an Authorization of Administration of Oral/Topical Medication form completed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Health Care Professional. The Health Care Professional's written instruction must include identification of specific symptoms experienced by the student that would necessitate the administration of the PRN medication. This pertains to students with asthma, anaphylaxis and so on.

Non-Prescription Medication

Non-prescription medications will not to be administered by school staff.

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. **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.** 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.

Parking Lot Safety

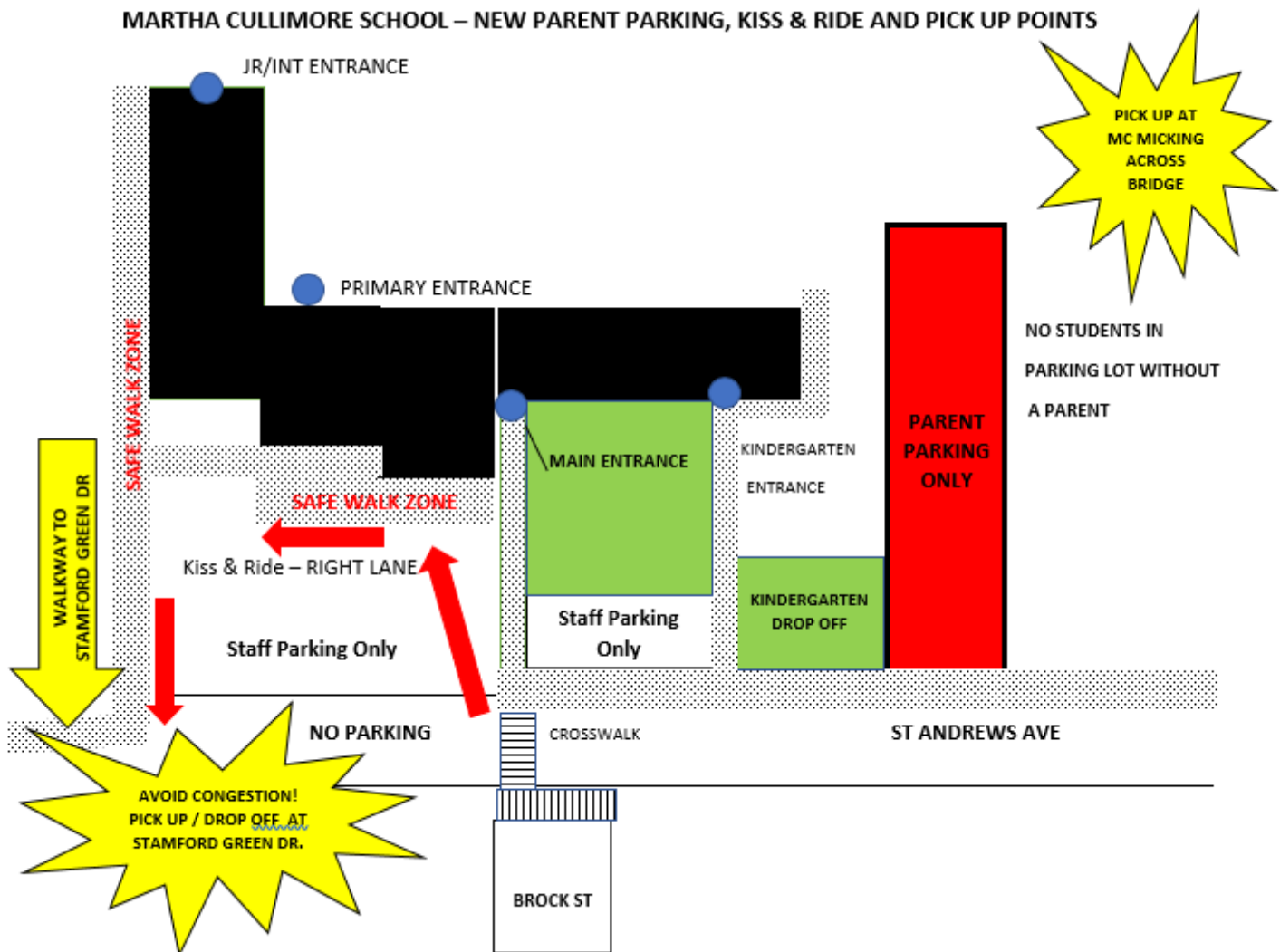
We recognize that Martha Cullimore is a busy school with wonderfully involved parents. Often that means that the parking lot is busy, too! In order to ensure the safety of our students at each dismissal time, we require all visitors to our parking lot to follow parking lot guidelines:



- Parents must park in the Parent Parking Lot on the north end of the school
- 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.
- 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.

MARTHA CULLIMORE SCHOOL – NEW PARENT PARKING, KISS & RIDE AND PICK UP POINTS



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.



How to Get 2019 Back to School Student Transportation Information



On Monday, **August 19, 2019** Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) posted specific back to school transportation arrangements for each student enrolled, including bus route numbers, stop locations and times.

Please visit 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's bus route.

Eligibility information is also available through the portal including walking directions if your child lives within the walk zone of the school and is not eligible for transportation service.

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. With the availability of the secure parent portal, *NSTS does not mail student transportation notices* with the exception of Kindergarten students or new students to the system who do not have an OEN to sign-in to the portal.

Please contact your school or NSTS if you have questions regarding your child's transportation arrangements.

Changes for Kindergarten Transportation, Opt-In

There is a requirement for Kindergarten students eligible for transportation, to opt-in to receive service for the 2019-20 school year.

In July, 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. Based on that information, NSTS assigned students to a bus stop. Kindergarten students not listed on the bus driver's route copy will not be able to ride the bus. This 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. All apparel should be free from inappropriate language/pictures. Undergarments should not be exposed. **Shoes must be worn** indoors due to safety/fire regulations.

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 24th from 6:00 - 7:00 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 13

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.

Cross Country Club begins during the first week of school!



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 13th. A donation of a toonie is appreciated.

Photo Day

Martha Cullimore students will have their individual photos and class pictures taken on October 1st. 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 5th.



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, by calling (905) 641- 2929 ext 52296 or emailing elemus@dsbn.org.

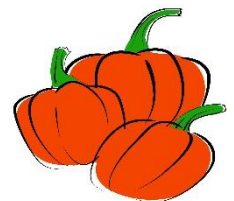
Student Organizer

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 **\$5.00** 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!

Fall Festival Fundraiser – Thursday October 10th

On Thursday, October 10th, we'll celebrate the harvest season with a fall festival! Students will participate in the Turkey Trot Walk-a-Thon, do fun autumn-themed activities and compete in a pumpkin roll – more details to follow! We'll be holding a bake sale on this day and are looking for donations of nut-free baked goods.



While we cannot guarantee a nut free school environment, we work diligently to minimize risk to students with allergies. **We require that all baked goods coming into the school be baked without nuts. However, we cannot guarantee that these baked goods are nut free or have been made in a nut-free environment.**

There are always commercially packaged nut-free items available at the bake sale table as an alternative for students with allergies. Parents are also welcome to send in labelled baked goods from their own home for their children with allergies. These are recommended for students with allergies.



All proceeds will go toward technology and student resources.