

The Cougar Chronicle

Martha Cullimore Public School
3155 St. Andrew St. Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2R7
<http://marthac.dsbnschools.ca>



SEPTEMBER
2020

Welcome Back, Cougars!

On behalf of the staff at Martha Cullimore, I would like to welcome back all our returning students and families. For our students and families new to Martha Cullimore, we are excited that you have joined our Cougar family this year. A new year is always filled with possibilities. At Martha Cullimore, we know that this year will be full of new learnings, new experiences, new opportunities and new friendships. Although things will look different, we will create an amazing, healthy and safe learning environment for our Cougars!

If you have not already taken a few minutes to read the [DSBN Parent Return to School Guide: In-Class Elementary](#) or the [Martha Cullimore Back to School Guide](#), please do so. This newsletter will give you some additional information.

Please visit the [DSBN website](#) and click on the Return to School Updates – Elementary for many valuable resources and reminders about how we're continuing to prepare together for return to school, including a [Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Guide](#), the [COVID-19 Management Plan](#) release by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education as well as [A Parent's Guide: Preparing for a Mentally Healthy Return to School](#).

The first day of school brings life back to the building, such as seeing smiling students eager to share their summer tales and hearing excitement in the air as students settle into their new classrooms. Thank you to Mrs. Houde for the excellent job she has done this summer getting the school ready to greet our students.

I am looking forward to learning and growing along with your children this year! Our amazing Martha Cullimore team of educators and support staff are here to keep our school safe together!

T. Chilcott

In order to be more environmentally friendly, this will be the only hardcopy newsletter that will be sent home. All future newsletters will be posted to the school website and sent via School Messenger through email on the first school day of the new month.

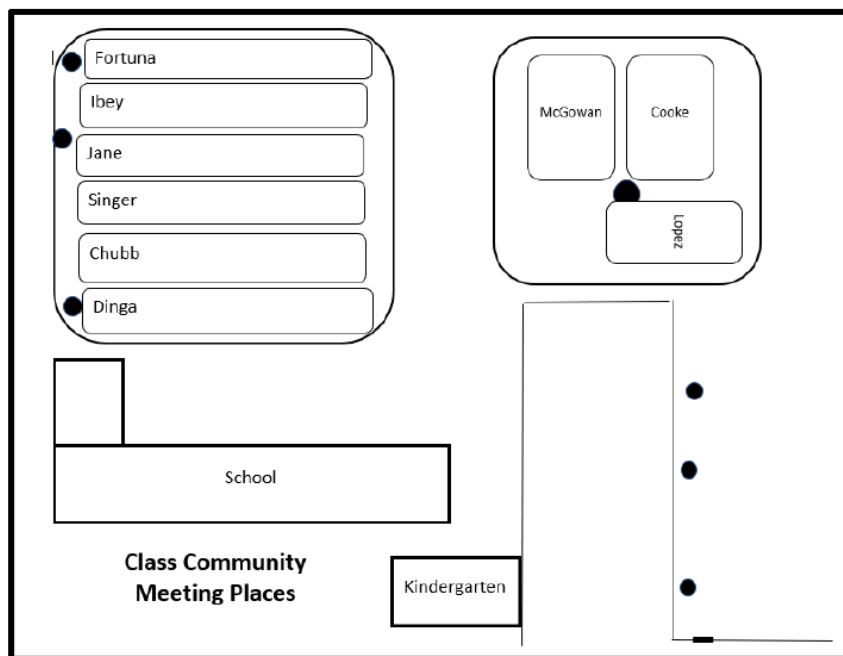
Important Paperwork – Please Return ASAP!

During the first week of school, forms were made available [through School Cash Online](#) to be completed and submitted in a timely manner:

- **Covid Self-Assessment Parent Agreement** (a copy of this is inserted at the end of this newsletter if you need a paper copy to submit)
- “DSBN Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement form” which must be signed in order for students to use computers within the school;
- ‘Permission to Participate’ form for Physical Education (mandatory); and
- Lunch Permissions Form

A paper copy of a **Verification Report** for your child(ren) is attached here with the newsletter and **due back to the school by Friday, September 18th**. It is very important that you carefully update any information that has changed since last year so the school has the information needed to take care of your child while at school. Please take a few moments to carefully complete all required forms and submit them/return them with your child as soon as possible. Many thanks!

Class Community Areas



School Bell Times

8:20 a.m.	Bus arrival
8:35 a.m.	School entry for all students & Period 1
8:55 a.m.	Period 2
9:35 a.m.	Period 3
10:15 a.m.	Period 4
10:55 a.m.	Period 5
11:35 a.m.	Period 6
12:15 p.m.	Period 7
12:55 p.m.	Period 8
1:35 p.m.	Period 9
2:15 p.m.	Period 10
2:55 p.m.	Dismissal for all students

The playground is closed and there is no supervision on the school yard after school. Students must return home immediately.

Rain or Shine!

Dress for the weather as students will be outdoors everyday as a start to their school day. Students will also be spending more time in their outdoor classrooms.

Custody Agreements and Documents

Please inform the school if there are special custody orders for your child(ren). Any relevant custody orders **MUST** be kept on file at the office. Please ensure that the school always has the most recent custody orders for your child(ren).

Prevalent Medical Conditions

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy or others) we want to make sure we have a current Plan of Care to support your child. All parents of children with prevalent medical conditions are asked to fill out the new Plan of Care and submit to the school. You can download the forms here dsbn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions

For more information, please contact the school.

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.

Student Arrival – 15 Minutes Before School Start Time

Due to the need to prevent crowding, and taking up space in the yard, parents will not be permitted on the school yard. There will be designated drop-off and pick-up areas. Our top priority is the health and safety of our students, staff and school community. It is essential we plan for spacing and minimize direct and indirect contacts with staff and other students. Thank you for doing your part to model physical distancing and your help to keep our school community safe. The only exception is for kindergarten and grade 1 parents, who may enter for the brief time it takes to escort their children to their meeting place, since they are very young and may need more guidance.

For the safety and security of all students within our class communities:

- Supervision staff are on duty
- Students must be on time and follow all routines that support the well-being of the whole school.
- Parents are asked to say good-bye to their children at the school yard gates and allow them to enter the school yard to join their friends with the support and guidance of their teachers.
- There are four different locations designated as drop-off and pick-up points (see K and Gr 1 to 8 details below)
- Pick-up and drop-off of students can only happen outside of the school. Parents will not have access to classrooms and unscheduled visits are not permitted.

Grade 1 to 8 Arrival

There are several **drop-off points** for students where parents can say good-bye to their children as they safely enter the school yard:

1. **Kiss & Ride Lane:** in front of the gym at the south end of the school. There is a safe walk zone from here all the way to the back school yard.
2. **St Andrews Ave. Sidewalk Gate:** just past the parent parking lot. This opens directly onto the school yard.
3. **McMicking Bridge Gate:** Parents can park their cars for a moment on the side of the road or just pull over and stop to let their children safely out of the car.
4. **Parent Parking Lot Gate:** at the north end of the school. Please remember that parents should escort their children through the parking lot until they are at the gate and then say good-bye.

Kindergarten Arrival

- **If driving or walking** to school, parents should drop off their children at the front of the school at the Kindergarten Area gate (just in front of Barkley's yellow wall). This is our new "**Kiss & Walk**" space for Kindergarten parents. Follow physical distancing markers and signs.

- **Students arriving by bus** will be met by school staff, who will help them disembark and guide them to the Kindergarten gate for direct supervision.

Please plan with your children, at which location you will routinely drop off and pick up. Keeping this as consistent as possible will foster a sense of routine and security.

Entry Doors and Entry Routines

Students will be assigned the same door for entry and exit the entire year, based on their division. This will minimize physical contact and ensure space between class cohorts:

Kindergarten and Primary Door – North Door at front of school (look for Barkley)

Junior Door – South East (mid-tarmac) door at the back

Intermediate Door – South West (end-tarmac) door at the back

- From the class waiting zones, there will be a staggered entry.
- Students will be reminded to physically distance and put on masks.
- Students will go directly to the homeroom classroom where they will wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer provided.
- Lockers and hooks will be unavailable to start the year to minimize touch surfaces and reduce need for cleaning.
- Students will hang backpacks with lunches, indoor shoes and personal items on their seat at their desk.

Parent Access to the School

One of our goals is to maintain a school environment that minimizes the number of potential contacts for students and staff. For that reason, parents should not enter the school. Pick-up and drop-off of students can only happen outside of the school. Parents will not have access to classrooms and unscheduled visits are not permitted. NOTE: all visitors must make an appointment with the office prior to entering the school.

What if I Need to Get Something to My Child?

If your child has forgotten something that they cannot do without, we will have you leave it at a designated space at the school entry. Staff will take care of delivery for you. We will see that your child receives it.

Bus Transportation

If your child qualifies for busing, go to www.nsts.ca for procedures and health and safety guidelines. Niagara Student Transportation Services is following Ministry of Education protocols.

- If you require transportation, you must complete the Opt-In to Transportation form available in the parent portal

- It will take at least a week for any new arrangements to be put in place
- Students in grades 4 to 8 must wear face masks to ride the bus
- Students in K to grade 3 are encouraged to wear face masks



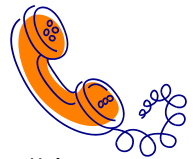
If your child qualifies for busing, go to www.nsts.ca for procedures and health and safety guidelines. Niagara Student Transportation Services is following Ministry of Education protocols. Parents, please do not give your son/daughter permission to bring a friend home with them on the bus. The bus company 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.

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.

Absences, Lates and Attendance Calls

Please help us to ensure the safety of our students by calling Safe Arrival when your child will be absent or late to school. Use automated phone system or use your mobile device by downloading the SchoolMessenger app.



1. Call toll-free before bell time: 1-866-606-5567
2. Logging on to the web portal (<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/login>). Using this website, you can set up your account to report and schedule absences.
3. Using your smart phone or tablet, simply download the SchoolMessenger app. The app is compatible with both Apple and Android devices. Select **Attendance** then **Report and Absence**.

We always need to know the whereabouts of each and every student. Your co-operation in using Safe Arrival 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.

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. You may call the school to speak with the secretary in case of unforeseen circumstances or to update the school on matters.

Going Home for Lunch

You may decide to have your child go home for lunch. Parents will be asked to complete a consent form if they wish their children to do so.

- Due to staggered lunches, we cannot guarantee that crossing guards will be available during lunch hours so please keep this in mind if you are planning to have your child go home for a lunch break.
- Young students must be picked up by a parent and school staff will escort them to the front door, where they can meet parents. Staff will sign the student out.
- Older students are required to sign out at the office and then sign in upon return.

Student Use of Phones

In order to minimize touch surfaces and direct and indirect contact with others, including our office staff, students will not be permitted to use the phone unless it is an emergency. Any after school plans need to be arranged prior to the start of the school day.

Student Use of Technology

Technology is an important part of our program and there will be many opportunities for learning using desktops, video equipment, cameras, and more. To ensure student safety and appropriate use, we will take on a three-fold approach:

1. Strict enforcement of the DSBN Acceptable Use policy (see form sent home in package),
2. Educating students to use technology safely and responsibly, and
3. Ensuring technology from home doesn't come to school without both parent and teacher permission.

Students should not bring valuable personal property to school. Loss and theft are facts of life, and often these lost or stolen articles are never returned to their rightful owner. Similarly, other items may cause unwanted distraction and/or confidentiality or safety concerns. Unless given permission by the teacher to complete school assignments or projects, all electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, cameras, IPODs, tablets) must be kept in a student's backpack throughout the entire school day, including nutrition breaks. If any of these items are used during school hours, they will be confiscated and will be returned with the date to be determined as per each offence. Electronic devices are not the responsibility of the school. It is, therefore, best that such items be left at home.

How to Communicate with Your Teacher

To minimize the amount of materials travelling between home and school, electronic communication through email, D2L (Student Portfolios) is encouraged. Your child's teacher will communicate their preferred form of electronic communication. At this time, if you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please understand that this will take place over the phone or through a virtual meeting until further notice. Parents are welcome to call the school or email to request a phone meeting time.

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.


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 29th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.** We will be electing our executive and establishing our general membership during this meeting. **This meeting will be online through MS Teams.**

Please let us know your interest by submitting your form here: [School Advisory Council Form](#) See the link in the electronic newsletter sent by email.

DSBN Elementary School Year Calendar



2020-2021
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

September							October							November						
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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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

December							January							February							
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							

March							April							May						
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June						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Professional Development Day
 Holiday

191 Carlton St., St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P4 • 905.641.1550 • 905.641.2929 • dsbn.org



Parental Agreement for Daily Screening

Parent's Role in Keeping Schools Safe

Everyone has a role to play in keeping families safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children **on a daily basis before sending them to school**. Additionally, parents must have a person available to pick up their child right away, should they become sick during school. Please read the following guidelines, then sign the agreement below. Further guidance is provided in our Parent Guide and available at www.dsbni.org 'Return to School' page.

Guidelines for determining whether a child should remain at home:

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for the following symptoms:

- Fever/chills (feeling hot to the touch, a temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Cough that's new or worsening (continuous, more than usual)
- Shortness of breath (out of breath even when sitting or walking)
- Sore throat (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- Runny, stuffy or congested nose (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- Unusual level of fatigue
- Headache that's unusual or long lasting
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, stomach pain (not related to other known causes or conditions)
- Feeling unwell for an unknown reason

If children display symptoms, they must remain home from school and seek medical attention by a health care provider to see if testing is recommended. Children may return to school when one of the following is met:

- Clearance from their health care provider
- Completion of 14 days of self-isolation and must be symptom free prior to return. This includes children who have symptoms and are recommended for testing, but testing is declined.
- Negative COVID-19 test results: child is to remain out of school until 24 hours after their symptoms have resolved
- Positive test result: child has completed the 14 day isolation criteria as directed by Public Health, fever has resolved and child has been consistently improving over the previous 72 hours.
 - NOTE: parents can contact Niagara Region Public Health for general COVID-19 questions at 1-888-505-6074; 905-688-8248, press 7, then press 2.

All students that have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days, OR were identified by Public Health as a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 must stay home and self-isolate.

Those unsure of if they, or a student, should self-isolate should be directed to use the [Ontario Self-Assessment site](#).

Parental Agreement

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to keep everyone safe. Please indicate that you have read and understood the above guidelines by completing the form below. This form must be returned immediately.

I have read the above guidelines and agree to assess my child(ren) daily and not send them to school if they are displaying any symptoms listed above.

I will ensure that myself or an authorized person is available to pick up my child(ren) immediately should they become symptomatic while at school.

Names of children: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Personal information and personal health information on this form is collected, used and disclosed in accordance with the Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.E.2, as amended, the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O 1990, c.M. 56, as amended and the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004, c.3 Sched. A., as amended and will be used for the purpose of compliance with Public Health protocols and any similar or related purpose(s). Questions about this collection, use and disclosure should be directed to the Freedom of Information Coordinator, District School of Niagara, 191 Carleton Street, St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P4 905-641-1550.