



Caledonia Centennial Public School

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September 2026

Dear Caledonia Centennial Public School (CCPS) Families,

On behalf of the staff of CCPS, I would like to welcome our families back to the routine of school life. A sense of routine can be comforting to everyone, children and adults alike, and it is our hope that our students are enjoying their first few days. Our students have been reuniting with their friends and making new ones as enrollment increases and we welcome new families to our school community.

We are thankful to be back with our students and to begin the work of education and community building, once again. We look forward to a productive and rewarding school year for our student body. As a staff, we will continue to build relationships with families for the sake of students' academic, social and emotional growth.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kelly, Principal

Changes in Pick Up/Bus Usage

"Home time" is very busy at the office as we manage student dismissals at the end of a day. Students should not be making last-minute changes to the way in which they travel home without prior parental consent. If there is a change in a child's dismissal routines, parents are asked to send a note to their child's Teacher or call the office by 1:30 p.m. at 905-765-4860. This request applies to all grade levels. This timely, prior communication about dismissal arrangements will allow for safe, accurate bus and walking dismissals. Without prior notice we will follow the usual method of dismissal.

Home
time



Lockdown Practice, Fire Drills, Hold-and-Secures

The students will participate in fire drills as well as a lockdown practice during the month of September according to Board policy.

Students will be guided through these practices in an age-appropriate fashion in order to assure their well-being. Prior notice will be provided, before the lockdown practice.

Occasionally we may need to initiate a "hold-and-secure". There are a variety of reasons for this type of safety protocol, but students are required to stay in the classrooms and lessons may continue. Hold-and-secures could be arranged for ambulance arrival and departure, wandering wildlife, or students experiencing difficulty in a variety of spaces. While they may be necessary for safety they are sometimes required to preserve the dignity and provide privacy for those involved.



Collection of Forms, Funds, School Insurance Forms & Permission Forms



School Cash Online enables you to use your debit or credit card to make quick and easy payments. We also use School Cash Online to send out "beginning of the year" forms along with various other forms that will be used throughout the school year. The forms need to be completed by parents and submitted back to the school electronically. It is critical to have accurate personal information in our files for communication. **Of particular importance is the acknowledgement of the school insurance forms. Regardless of a family's desire to purchase school insurance, parents must acknowledge this offer, whether they choose to purchase school insurance or not. Students require this acknowledgement, in order to participate in extra-curricular events, team sports and school trips.** To access the system, click on the "School Cash" button on our board website. The access and process are the same as purchasing an item, with the addition of completing the form. We have laptops available in our office for families who do not have access to a smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Reporting an Absence

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are utilizing ***an efficient*** student absence reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This system reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance, makes it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these three convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number **1-833-557-9420** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

In addition, we use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system attempts to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

For the safety of your children, we require parents' and visitors' vigilance, cooperation and care when dropping off students. For the safety of students and staff, please respect signs posted around the school property. School yard supervision will be provided by staff from 8:25 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. each morning. We ask that parents who are dropping off their students say their good-byes at the entrances to the playground area. The laneway along Shetland Street (former portable area) should not be accessed by parents at drop off and dismissal times. Consider the end of this laneway where the buses arrive, to be the entrance to the school property.



Please be mindful of the need for our school buses to pass through the church parking lot in order to get to the laneway located at the back of our playground. The safety of our students is of paramount importance and safe passage of our buses is the priority. This laneway should not be used by parents and staff with vehicles from 8:25 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. due to student congregation and bus passage. Staff will redirect drivers to other passages. In addition, parents are asked to park only in designated parking spots in the church lot for the sake of our students' and parents' safety.

All students arriving to school by bicycle, skateboard and scooters, must refrain from using them and where possible use the bike rack to lock them up.

In addition, many of us at CCPS value and *adore* the family pet, especially dogs. We ask, however, that during school hours our furry friends stay leashed at the edge of school property with an adult, at all times while on or near school property. Children and animals can be unpredictable, and everyone has different comfort levels around animals. We want everyone to feel safe and at ease while on school property.

According to Board policy, "Animals (with the exception of service animals), are not to be kept in schools but may be welcomed as occasional supervised visitors only after approval of the Principal."

Food and Scent Allergy Awareness



We have students at Caledonia Centennial Public School with serious, life-threatening allergies and we need to keep everyone safe. We are PEANUT– AND TREE- NUT AWARE, and no substitutes are permitted.

We ask you to keep this in mind when preparing food for your child to take to school and to monitor what they are packing if preparing their own lunches. We also ask that you check the ingredients list on skin care products that your child may be using.

As we continue to support a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students, we kindly ask that any food items brought to school for classroom celebrations, special events, or shared snacks be **pre-packaged and state that the item is nut-free**.

Please note that a product being labeled "nut-free" is not always enough. To help protect students with severe allergies, all items must also be **prepared and packaged in a facility that is free from peanuts, tree nuts, and potential nut contamination**. When purchasing items, please check the packaging carefully for statements such as:

- "Made in a nut-free facility"
- "Produced in a peanut- and tree nut-free facility"

Items that state "May contain peanuts/tree nuts" or "Made in a facility that processes peanuts/tree nuts" cannot be accepted. Cakes and cupcakes baked in grocery stores and bakeries, may not contain nuts, but may have been exposed to nut-material during the preparation process.

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day, on September 30, is a day when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada. This is an important day in light of recent discoveries.

September 30th falls during the time of year when Indigenous children were taken away to residential schools.

The "orange shirt" in Orange Shirt Day refers to the new shirt that Phyllis Webstad was gifted by her grandmother for her first day of school. When Phyllis got to school, they took away her clothes from home, including her new shirt. It was never returned. The message that Phyllis wants to pass along on Orange Shirt Day — and every day — is that **every child matters**.

There are many ways you can get involved!

· **Wear an orange shirt on September 30th. CCPS students are invited to wear an orange shirt to school that day. If they do not have an orange shirt, consider orange socks, pants, or hat.**

· Share Phyllis' story. You can watch it on YouTube by following this link: <https://www.cbc.ca/kidsCBC2/the-feed/what-is-orange-shirt-day>

· Read books by Indigenous authors about residential schools. <https://www.cbc.ca/kidsCBC2/the-feed/8-of-the-best-picture-books-by-indigenous-authors>

· Trace your hand on a piece of orange paper and write something on the paper that you can do to help others feel like they matter.

Smoke Free Reminder

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act (2017), which prohibits smoking tobacco or cannabis as well as all vaping in public areas, including schools.

A person caught smoking or vaping in a prohibited area may be charged with an offence and subject to a fine. The minimum fine for smoking/vaping in a prohibited place, is **\$305** and the maximum fine is **\$5,000**.

Signage is posted at all schools and Board facility sites. Through our Public Health Nurses, education information is available for those looking to quit smoking or vaping.

This requires everyone's cooperation. We don't want to see anyone charged. Therefore, we're asking for your support and assistance in ensuring everyone meets the requirements of this law.

For more information on the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, visit: <https://bit.ly/2FGV4y5>.



Standards of Behaviour

Grand Erie is committed to partnering with parents and guardians to build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging to inspire each learner.

It is our goal to provide a positive school climate in which each student can reach their full potential. This is a place where we foster respect, civility, responsible citizenship and safety. We endeavour to create a student-centred educational community whose members support one another with mutual respect, understanding, and acceptance.

All students and staff members will:

- Show respect for the rights, property and safety of themselves and others at all times
- Accept personal responsibility for their behaviour
- Demonstrate socially acceptable behaviour
- Refrain from all forms of bullying by respecting and appreciating the diversity of all school members regardless of their race, culture, ethnicity, religion, creed, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability or mental disability, mental illness, age, national or aboriginal origin, socio-economic status or appearance
- Attend regularly and punctually
- Show respect for the roles and responsibilities of students, principals, teachers, parents, volunteers and the school board
- Demonstrate and promote positive behaviour through the avoidance of all types of violence
- Use information and communications technology, including the internet, digital resources and e-communication and all forms of social media in a responsible and acceptable manner

All Grand Erie District School Board employees take seriously all allegations of bullying, harassment, racism, gender-based violence, homophobia, sexual harassment, inappropriate sexual behaviour, and any other negative behaviour which would impact on the school climate.

Meet the Educator

Please save the date of Thursday, September 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for a scheduled Meet the Educator evening. Classroom Staff members will be available at the school for an informal meet-and-greet. The purpose of these meetings is to say a "Hello, how are you?" The staff will be responsive and open to communicating with their families throughout the year and this is a great opportunity for initial introductions. If by chance, a parent has a specific concern regarding their child, please reach out to the classroom staff by email or phone for a more in-depth, confidential "interview-type" meeting. This will allow all families to have the opportunity for an introduction. We will be serving free hot dogs for this evening, so come on out!

Terry Fox Run



Hello CCPS families!

Please note that the Terry Fox Run will be held here at CCPS on

Friday, September 18th

This year's theme is: **“TERRY STARTED IT. TOGETHER LET’S FINISH IT”**

Students will be running and walking the perimeter of the yard as part of our fitness program. We can support Terry's Vision to stay active and end cancer in many ways.

1. Students can run, walk, or roll with us that day!
2. **Please support by paying \$2 or more to the School Cash Online to continue the wonderful tradition of donating a “Toonie for Terry”.**
3. Families and friends can fundraise online at <https://terryfoxschoolrun.org/>. Click on “Donate to a School” and type in Caledonia Centennial Public School. The website is super easy to navigate.

Everyone who participates in the event will be entered into a draw to win a T-shirt! Stay tuned for photos of the day and to see who won the T-shirts! Many, many thanks for your support of this worthy event.

Terry Fox Run Coordinator,

Mr. McKee and Mrs. Rothwell

School Picture Day

- Thursday, October 8
- Retakes Friday, November 13



Professional Development Days

The following days are Professional Development Days. Educational staff are involved in activities related to curriculum and assessment. Students do not attend school:

- Tuesday, October 8
- Friday, November 20
- Friday, January 22
- Friday, June 11
- Friday, June 30

Lost and Found

Each year we accumulate numerous items in our Lost and Found. Returning these valuable items to their rightful owners is always easier if they are labelled.



We ask that parents label items such as hoodies and jackets. Students tend to remove these items during rigorous play because they are overheated. These extra layers of clothing are found on the playground after recesses and we would gladly return them to their rightful owners wherever possible.

Items will be stored in the Lost and Found for a period of time and teachers will be asked to encourage their students to view these items. After a period of time, unclaimed clothing will be donated to a local charity.

Progressive Discipline

Grand Erie District endorses early and ongoing prevention and intervention to promote positive behaviour. Opportunities for students to learn from their choices is a critical element. We use a whole-school approach that employs a continuum of interventions, supports and consequences to address inappropriate student behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. Interventions include opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour while helping students make good choices.

Personal Belongings and Toys

Sometimes items children bring to school get lost or broken, and we want to remind everyone that students should not be bringing toys or personal items to school. We take the presence of replica or toy weapons very seriously, and these items are absolutely not permitted at school.

Purchased Lunches & Treats

Throughout the school year the school will be offering purchased lunches and treats such as weekly pizza days, frozen yogurt and spaghetti days.



Payment for these items can be done through the School Cashonline platform. The pizza days will occur on a weekly basis on Wednesday starting in October. Parents are asked to pay close attention to due dates if they would like to place orders. Orders are sent promptly and well in advance of the actual lunch date to the vendors, so last-minute, "past the due date" orders are not possible.

The staff members work hard to ensure that students receive their orders, but mistakes do occur and we want to ensure that students receive the food for which their parents have paid. While we encourage open communication between students and staff, students are sometimes shy or too young to let staff members know they did not receive their order, and wait until the end of the day to tell their parents.

Parents are asked to reach out to the classroom Teacher if there is an issue and the Teacher will touch base with the office to clarify the situation. As well, parents are asked to communicate clearly with their children in regard to whether an order has in fact been placed so there is less disappointment and confusion on the student's part.

Nutrition Program

This year, the Nutrition Snack Program will be providing healthy food options for students on Wednesday and Thursday beginning in October. The students will receive one fruit/vegetable option, and a grain or a protein option. This program relies on donations from various sources, including school families. **Please consider donating via SchoolCash Online.**



Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The first PAC meeting of the school year will be held on **Tuesday, September 29 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** at our school. Elections for the PAC will be conducted at the first meeting. Please consider joining this dedicated group of parents as they endeavour to take on initiatives for the betterment of our student body.