



December Newsletter

École Golden Ears Elementary

Dear Families

During the past month, we have been focusing on the Grandfather Teaching of Respect. We have been learning how to respect each other and the gifts each of us brings to school to share with others everyday. If you would like to learn more about the Indigenous teaching of respect, please watch the following video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZCE5wUzqzM

In December, we have many opportunities to show respect and care for each other. This month, in the spirit of giving, we have organized a holiday hamper collection for local families. Please see the green paper notice your child brought home last week or the Parent Portal announcement sent out on November 23rd. If you are able, we are asking our community to support our Holiday Hampers by either purchasing a gift or stocking stuffer, donating non-perishable food or purchasing a digital gift card. We are asking for all donations to be received at the school by December 11th. Thank you in advance for helping us take care of those in our community.

Wishing each of you a warm season of peace, joy and happiness.

Kind regards,

Laura Brandon

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec. 2-6 Scholastic Book Fair
- Dec. 5 11:30 Dismissal for Conferences
- Dec. 6 Conference Day (no classes)
- Dec. 11 PAC Meeting 8:45 a.m. in person
- Dec. 11 PAC Hot Lunch (Little Caesars)
- Dec. 13 PAC Pancakes!
- Dec. 16 Monthly Assembly (Humility)
- Dec. 20 Winter Wear Day
- Dec. 20 Last Day of School for break
- Jan. 6 School Reopens

CONFERENCES

December 5th is an early dismissal at 11:30 for conferences and December 6th, conferences are scheduled all day so there is no instruction for students.

Conferences involve the participation of the teacher, parent(s)/guardian(s), and student.

I can't stress enough, how important it is to come together and celebrate your child's

growth in Term 1.





WATER TESTING STRATEGY FOR DISTRICT FACILITIES


THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS UPDATING ITS WATER TESTING PROGRAM BY ADJUSTING THE NUMBER OF DRINKING WATER SOURCES IN ITS FACILITIES. THIS NEW WATER TESTING STRATEGY, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN A NUMBER OF NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS, WILL ENSURE A MORE STREAMLINED TESTING SCHEDULE, LIMITING ANNUAL TESTING ONLY TO WATER SOURCES THAT ARE BEING USED. EACH FACILITY WILL ALSO HAVE AT LEAST ONE DESIGNATED WATER DISPENSING STATION, WITH THE GOAL OF INCREASING THIS NUMBER OVER TIME.

WATER SOURCES DESIGNATED FOR DRINKING ARE MARKED WITH A DRINKING WATER STICKER, WHILE THOSE NOT INCLUDED IN THE TESTING PROGRAM ARE MARKED WITH A NOT FOR DRINKING STICKER. A LIMITED NUMBER OF DRINKING WATER SOURCES IN THE DISTRICT REQUIRE A 2-MINUTE MORNING FLUSH TO ENSURE WATER QUALITY; THESE ARE MARKED WITH A 2-MINUTE MORNING FLUSH STICKER. THIS MORNING FLUSH IS COMPLETED BY STAFF AS THE FACILITIES DEPARTMENT PRIORITIZES UPGRADES AS A LONG-TERM SOLUTION.

ADJUSTMENTS TO DESIGNATED DRINKING WATER LOCATIONS MAY BE MADE TO MEET ANY EMERGING NEEDS AND ENSURE EASY ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER ACROSS ALL OUR SCHOOLS.

STAFF WILL REVIEW THIS NEW LABELING SYSTEM WITH STUDENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR TO ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY YOUNGER ONES, UNDERSTAND WHICH WATER SOURCES THEY CAN USE FOR DRINKING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WATER TESTING PROGRAM, VISIT THE DISTRICT WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/4OUVCQY](https://bit.ly/4ouvcqy) OR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/466CPUI](https://bit.ly/466cpui).



INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES: SNOW

AS THE WEATHER COOLS, PLEASE REVIEW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES AS THEY RELATE TO SNOWFALL AND POSSIBLE SCHOOL CLOSURES.

THE DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOOLS DUE TO ACCUMULATING SNOWFALL IS ULTIMATELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, WHO MUST BALANCE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS WITH THE NEED TO PROVIDE LEARNING. THE DECISION IS NOT TAKEN LIGHTLY AND IS THE RESULT OF A CAREFULLY THOUGHT-OUT PROCESS THAT IS REVIEWED AFTER EACH EXPERIENCE AND REFINED IF NECESSARY.

EXCEPT IN RARE CIRCUMSTANCES, NO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE IF SCHOOLS ARE OPEN.

THE DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOOLS IS MADE BY 6:30 A.M. DETAILS ARE:

- POSTED ON THE SD42 WEBSITE (WWW.SD42.CA).
- POSTED ON THE SD42 FACEBOOK FEED ([SD42FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/SD42FACEBOOK));
- POSTED ON THE SD42 TWITTER FEED ([@SD42NEWS](https://twitter.com/SD42NEWS));
- SHARED WITH NEWS 1130, CKNW, AND CBC 690 RADIO STATIONS.

PLEASE NOTE: THE DISTRICT SUPPORTS INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY DECISIONS REGARDING SAFETY. PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S SAFE TRAVEL TO SCHOOL. IF, FOR ANY REASON, THERE ARE PERSONAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE ABILITY TO TRAVEL SAFELY TO SCHOOL, OTHER ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE.

