

# Charlottetown Connection



## Principal's Message

Hello Charlottetown Parents/Guardians,

It was such a pleasure meeting many of you during our Open House-Curriculum Night on Thursday September 12th. I felt so welcomed by all of you and feel truly privileged to be working with your children and you, as well as, the amazing staff at Charlottetown! The halls and classes were all a buzz as students proudly showed off their learning spaces.

A special welcome to our new Superintendent, Shirley Chan, who has visited our school three times since the start of the school year. We welcome her and look forward to her regular visits.

Students have been busy getting reacquainted with school rules and routines and to that end we have completed a couple of Fire Drills and one Hold and Secure Drill so far. All students and staff did a fantastic job with all the drills we have conducted.

This school year, TDSB moved to an online Student Package for completing forms that we would normally print and send home. Thanks to everyone for your quick attention in completing these forms. If for whatever reason you have not yet received the online Student Package, please first check your junk mail and if you find nothing there, please contact our office so we can ensure we have your correct email address on file.

Rita Gallippi  
Principal  
Charlottetown

## IMPORTANT DATES

**September 30:** Orange Shirt Day  
**Sept 30-Oct 3:** CCAT Assessment  
**October 2:** School Council 6:30 pm  
**October 5:** World Teachers' Day  
**October 8:** Cross Country  
**October 10:** World Mental Health Day  
**October 11:** No School-PD Day  
**October 14:** No School-Thanksgiving  
**October 18:** Cross Country East Finals  
**October 22:** Picture Retake Day  
**October 24:** Cross Country City Finals  
**October 25:** Hat Day-Spirit Day

### Contact Information

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## Orange Shirt Day

September 30th is **Orange Shirt Day** and the students at Charlottetown have been exploring the meaning of this day with the staff. We encourage all staff and students to wear their **Orange Shirts** Monday.

**Orange Shirt Day** began in 2013 as a result of residential school survivor Phyllis Jack Webstad discussing her experience when she arrived at a residential school. On her first day at residential school Phyllis had her new orange shirt taken away from her. Phyllis' experience is used today to teach students about residential schools and their [assimilation](#) practices.

The date of September 30 was chosen for the annual event because it is the time of year in which Indigenous children were historically taken from their homes to residential schools. In addition to simply wearing an orange shirt on September 30, this annual event encourages Canadians to learn about the history of residential schools. Many communities have held memorial walks, film screenings, and public lectures to raise awareness about Indigenous history. Additionally, school boards across Canada have begun to use this event to teach children about residential schools.

In 2017 [Jane Philpott](#), Canada's Minister of Indigenous Services, and [Carolyn Bennett](#), [Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs](#) Minister, encouraged people across Canada to participate in this commemorative and educational event.<sup>[5]</sup>

\*\*\*\*The information presented here is from the Wikipedia website-Orange Shirt

<http://www.angeshirtday.org/> is a website that has some wonderful resources that families can use for additional support materials.

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## Lockdown and Fire Drills

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations, should these occur.

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone in our school.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown and fire drill. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. Lockdown drills, like fire drills, are an essential component to ensuring student and staff safety. It is important that all staff and students are prepared and know how to respond in cases of emergencies. The drills last approximately 5 minutes and ensure plans are effective and can also systematically identify any safety concerns.

Communication is also very important in any emergency situation. The emergency contact information kept on file is important in helping this happen. It lists the people who can pick up a student from the school. If you have not yet provided this information to the office or have updates to the information on file, please make sure our office staff have that information as soon as possible.

## Anaphylaxis - Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure student safety.

Sabrina's Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas. The TDSB has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available on Food Allergy Canada's website at <http://foodallergy.ca>.