

JOSEPH BRANT DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



270 Manse Road, 416-396-6400 Principal: Christie Trialonis Vice Principal : Michael Ensor

December is the month of Kindness and Caring

Each month, the TDSB focuses on a character trait to exemplify and strive for. This month, the focus is on Kindness and Caring. To promote acts of Kindness and Caring throughout the year, we have started a “Get Caught in the Act” of Kindness and Caring. Each time a staff member sees a student demonstrating kind and caring behaviours, a special ticket is given. Students collect these tickets and enter them into their grade specific boxes in the office for an opportunity to win prizes at each Character Education Assembly!

Parent Appreciation Breakfast – THANK-YOU!

Thank-you to all parents that were able to join us for our Parent Appreciation Breakfast on November 30th. It was lovely to see so many of you connecting with us to provide your feedback on how we may collectively improve our school. The image to the right contains feedback provided by parents in attendance. Your responses will help to build our school improvement plan. Words that appear larger and darker are those that were recorded most often than those that appear smaller and lighter.

Thank-you to our School Community Worker, Donna Cardoza, for always supporting our parent engagement initiatives.



Changes to our School Day starting Monday

In our continued effort to improve school organization, safety and security for all, some changes will be taking place beginning this Monday, Dec. 12, 2022:

1. **Lunch:** While the lunch hour will remain the same (11:30 a.m. – 12:30p.m.), lunch procedures will change. ALL students in our school will be eating their lunch from 11:30 to 11:50 a.m. indoors. Outdoor play time for ALL students will be from 11:50 – 12:30 p.m. This schedule allows for all supervisors to be outdoors with our students for maximum supervision. Two staff will be positioned indoors to monitor washroom procedures. This also allows for lunch time clubs and house leagues to take place without interruption. Please support us by ensuring your child brings lunch to school and avoid using services like Uber to bring lunch to school as this creates problems in the office which takes away from student safety. Any students that have permission to leave the building must time their return to school for a 12:30 p.m. start. Students will not be allowed into the building to eat their lunch after 11:50 a.m.
2. **Recess:** All students will engage in two recess breaks (9:55 to 10:10 a.m. and 1:55 to 2:10 p.m.)
3. **Dismissal:** ALL students will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Students in junior or intermediate grades who are picking up younger siblings, are asked to go directly to their respective doors for pick up following their dismissal. No student is to remain at the front of the school after dismissal. Any student not

picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be brought to the office for safety purposes and parents will be called. Any student participating in after school activities, should proceed to those activities following their safe dismissal; otherwise, ALL students should be heading home following dismissal.

4. **Drop off of Grade 1/2 classes in the mornings:** Ms. Petrovski's, Ms. Vitalis' and Ms. Husband's students will enter via door 5 (the doors on the south side of the kindergarten fence) in the mornings only, where Ms. Minhas, Ms. Lee, Mr. Page and Ms. Thompson's classes line up. This way, all our grade 1 to 3 students will enter from the same door, which also supports ease of drop off when there are two or more children, of this age, in one family. Pick up doors will remain the same for all students to avoid congestion and support safe dismissal of students to their parents.
5. **Cell Phones:** Cell phones have become an increasingly unhealthy distraction for our students, as well as challenges with misuse resulting in unsafe situations. Parents, we need your help to remind students to either leave cell phones at home or put them away for safe keeping (back pack/locker). Cell phones are NOT to be seen or used in school (unless under the supervision of a teacher for educational purposes or medical reasons) or on school property during school hours (lunch and recesses included). If you need to reach your child, we encourage you to call the school. Our office staff will communicate your message to your child. Please refrain from calling or texting your child during school hours as this disrupts learning.

Parking

In order to allow for the safe pick up and drop off of our students that are bussed to and from school, as well as the safety of all children being picked up by parents, you will have noticed that the round about in front of our school is closed with pylons each morning from 8:20 to 8:45 and 3:00 to 3:40 p.m. If you wish to park to pick up your child, please do so at the community centre up the street from our school and walk to our school to pick up and drop off your children. This will avoid morning congestion on the street and unsafe U-turns.

Congratulations to our Lego Robotics Team

A hearty congratulations goes out to our Lego Robotics Team who worked tirelessly after school leading up to this year's FIRST Lego League Challenge 2022-2023. On Saturday, Dec. 3rd, our team had the opportunity to demonstrate their robotics skills in a full day of events and competition. Lead by our staff, Ms. Kerpel, Ms. McGroarty and Ms. Ramudo, our students made our school proud and were awarded for their excellent participation and enthusiasm. It was a wonderful way to end the many hours of commitment to build, program, test and ready their robots for competition! We are so proud of you team Brant!



Winter Concert

Our Winter Concert is almost here! We are preparing for our Winter Concert, on Thursday, December 22, 2022. The Kindergarten Concert will take place from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. The Primary and Junior Concert will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Students should be at school for 6:10 p.m. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for a raffle to win one of the many Holiday Baskets that each class has been preparing especially for this event! We look forward to seeing students and families for this in-person event.

Spirit Days, Cookies and more...

We have a number of fun events and Spirit Days that have and will be taking place to the end of December. On Monday, Dec. 5th our boys volleyball team played our staff volleyball team in a student vs. staff match. Classes attended to root for their favourite team. Our staff cheerleaders helped to build the excitement as we collectively cheered them on. The game was a close tie but alas, our staff lost to the prowess of our boys volleyball team under the coaching of Mr. Buchoon. Well done boys and well played staff!

Our Equity Team, with the support of Ms. Mulla, has organized a number of Spirit Days:

Our first Spirit Day is Friday, Dec. 9th: Wear your favourite Hat Day!

Our next Spirit Day is Friday, Dec. 16th: TBD

Our last Spirit Day for December is Friday, Dec. 23rd: Festive Sweater Day!

To continue with our fundraising initiatives, winter cookie sales are taking place until the end of December, while supplies last. Each cookie is \$2. Ms. Mulla has been visiting classes in the mornings for cookie purchases. The flavours are chocolate fudge, chocolate chip and vanilla snowmen.

Camp Kearney

Our grade 6 students and grade 8 students had the opportunity to attend our Outdoor Education Centre at Camp Kearney. This three-day trip was filled with outdoor education activities, team building and fun experiences for all! Students returned with smiles and stories to tell that they will always remember! Special thanks to our staff supervisors that were with our students throughout the trip: Mr. Buchoon, Mr. Ensor, Ms. Templeton and Ms. Mahentherarasa. Thank-you students for representing Joseph Brant well and thank-you staff for keeping our students safe and engaged in their learning!

Brant Bear Boutique

Our Brant Bear Boutique, in room 101, is stocked and has been welcoming parent customers! With winter weather upon us, you may wish to visit our Boutique to up-size your child's winter outerwear. If you have gently used or new outerwear you wish to swap, we will accept these as well (though no donations are necessary to shop at our free Boutique). Children grow so quickly and we want to offer this Boutique as an opportunity to all families wishing to 'shop' this year (free shopping! Yeah!). It is a great way to also support mother earth and avoid items from going to landfills when they are good for use. We have sizes from 9 months to Adult XL. In addition to snowsuits and coats, we have various shoes and boots available, as well as a collection of hats and mittens to choose from.

If you would like to arrange a time to go shopping, please email Ms. Lee at laurie.lee-neal@tdsb.on.ca. We look forward to hearing from you and thank-you in advance for visiting our Brant Bear Boutique!

Let's go shopping not landfill dropping...support our Brant Bear Boutique!

Winter Holiday Break

Our last day of school is Friday, December 23, 2022. We return to school in the New Year, on Monday, January 9th, 2023. It will be a day 5. We wish all families a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all back in the New Year!

