

Bright's Grove Public School

2612 Hamilton Rd, Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0

T: 519-869-4285 **Bus Zone 2**



Message from the Principal

The first month of school comes to a close as we look to say goodbye to the summer weather and prepare for the fall. By the end of the first month, I usually like to make some sunshine phone call to parents and guardians with positive messages regarding the first weeks of school. These phone calls include anything from academic success, hard work, positive attitudes, or displaying kindness to peers. I really try and focus on anyone that demonstrates exemplary behaviour or aptitude. Applying some math to the current situation, if I multiply 337 students by five-minute phone call each...I'd need to make over 28 hours of phone calls! Truly, this student body here at Bright's Grove continues to impress me daily. I am so excited and proud to be a Bulldog and have the opportunity to work with such an incredible staff and wonderful group of students.



I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our staff and parent council for running a successful Open House and Book Fair. The evening was a huge success and gave everyone an opportunity to gather and meet the faces behind the names that come home to dinner tables each evening. Thank you for joining us!

As the school year progresses, I want to reinforce our commitment as a school to showing kindness to one another, understanding our differences, and celebrating each child's unique contributions to the school. It is our hope that each student at our school can find themselves expressed and represented in the building. We remain committed to our goals regarding equity and inclusion. The learning that our students engaged in throughout National Truth and Reconciliation week, and the recognition of Orange Shirt Day are reflective of this commitment. We will continue to grow in our efforts to be responsible members of the school community and implement the practice of restorative justice to resolve conflicts within the school. Coinciding with the LKDSB goals, our students will shape the world we live in. By providing a safe and caring learning environment and embracing diversity and respect for self and others, we can help our students mature into individuals that will have a positive impact on those around them.

Nick Nienhuis

October 5
Cross Country - Petrolia

October 6
PA Day – No school for students

October 9
Thanksgiving Holiday

October 13
Terry Fox Day
"Toonies for Terry"

October 16
Conference Cross Country - Canatara

October 19
School Picture Day
(Re-takes Nov 16)

October 23
YMCA program closed for the day

October 24
District Cross Country - Canatara

October 27
Immunization Clinic



School Start-up Information

2022-2023 School Calendar Dates

Oct 6: PA Day

Oct 9: Thanksgiving

Nov 17: PA Day

Dec 25-Jan 5: Winter holidays

Feb 2: PA Day

Feb 19: Family Day

Mar 11-15: March Break

Mar 29: Good Friday

Apr 1: Easter Monday

April 26: PA Day

May 20: Victoria Day

June 7: PA Day

June 27: Final day of school

June 28: PA Day

The LKDSB school calendar can be accessed here:

[2023-2024 Elementary School Calendar](#)

Important information for parents can also be found on our LKDSB portal here:

[Information for Parents](#)

[2023-2024 Elementary Student Handbook](#)

Important Announcements

COMMUNICATION

- Newsletters, forms, and communication to parents/guardians will **primarily occur via email**. We strongly recommend that you agree to accept email from the school when completing the **Student Verification Forms** sent home in the first week of school.

- Please remember to sign up for **School Cash Online** as BGPS will handle all transaction through this method of payment. Information is available on our BGPS and LKDSB website.

[School Cash Online Link](#)

- All bussing information for parents/guardians can be viewed at the following website:

[Bus Information Link](#)

- School Picture Day and Retakes (Oct 19 and Nov 16)



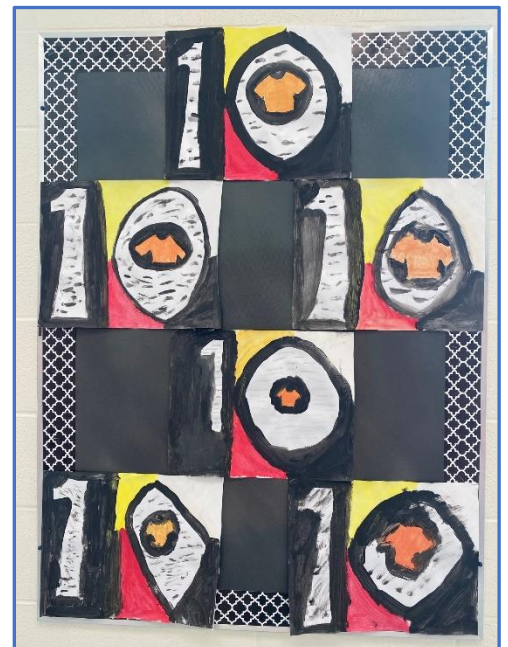
Recognizing Excellence: Month End Awards

This month we are recognizing the character trait of empathy: the ability to understand and share feelings of another. It's not just feeling sorry for someone or recognizing that someone is sad. It is the ability to truly appreciate how someone is feeling. We are fortunate to have students here who excel at this ability to empathize and understand. Staff in the building have selected individuals who best demonstrated empathy throughout the month of September. A big shout out to these individuals who help create a safe and welcoming environment here at Bright's Grove Public School. Next month's focus is **respect**.



Orange Shirt Day and National Truth and Reconciliation Week

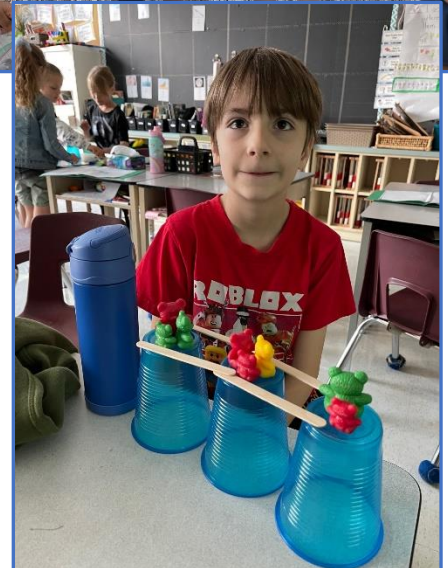
Throughout the last week of September, our classrooms engaged in several age-appropriate discussions and activities relating to residential schools and the impact they had and continue to have on Indigenous families in Canada. On the final day of the week, many students wore an orange shirt to honour the children and families impacted by the residential school system. The orange shirt has become a symbol of hope, reconciliation, and a commitment to a better future. One of the activities involved a painting session with Moses Lunham, an artist from Kettle and Stony Point First Nation who provides so many amazing opportunities for our students to learn through art! Our choir also had their first opportunity to sing O'Canada for the assembly.





Bright's Grove Students Love to Learn!

Here is just a small sample of students learning through exploration and hands-on activities!





Upcoming Events

This month many of our students will be taking part in several cross-country events. We also have many students already signed up to participate in the first Caribou Math contest for the school year. In addition to that, many of our school clubs have already begun or will start soon including the sewing club, choir, school council, intramural soccer, chess club, and more! We have an incredible group of active and motivated students keen to try new things!



CARIBOU CONTESTS



Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

All electronic devices, such as cell phones, digital game devices, computers are not to be used while the student is on school property before, during, or after school without the permission of school personnel and may only be used for educational purposes under the guidance and supervision of staff. At no time will students use electronic devices for digital, audio or video recording without permission from the teacher. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen property.

Communication

Communication between home and school is key to your child's success. Primary communication from administration will be through phone or email. **If you had previously declined receiving email notifications from the school, we ask that you consider allowing for email communication from the school so that you can receive newsletters, forms, and any pertinent information to the school year.**

Safe Arrival and Dismissal

School Arrival: Students are expected to arrive at school no earlier than 8:40 am, as their safety on the yard cannot be monitored without a staff member present. Classes will begin at 8:55 am. **Parents are asked to remain off the yard. Students in JK and SK may be brought to their ECE by the parent for 'hand-off' but are asked to leave the yard.** Parents can help their child find their line-up on the first day but are asked to then wait outside the fence. Pylons with teachers' names will be on the primary yard to help students find their bags.

Dismissal Procedures: Students who walk or are getting picked-up should be met at a pre-appointed spot on the yard. Older students will be dismissed at the bell to collect younger siblings/students. It is important that you practice this meeting spot ahead of time. Parents are asked to wait outside school property until the bell rings as classes are often outside to play at the end of the day.

Early Pick Up: Should there be a need to arrange an earlier pick-up time, please call the school office and ask that the message be given to the teacher and

your child through the office. To avoid this, we ask that parents please call the school before 2:50 pm to make alternate pick-up arrangements.

School Hours

8:40-8:55	Student arrival at school
10:35-11:15	First Break
1:15-1:55	Second Break
3:15	Dismissal

Attendance Reporting

Instructions for downloading the School Messenger app and navigating the website can be found attached to this email or on the school website. Please, use this to report any absences. There is an automatic call-out that we are unable to suspend that goes out about 9:30 am. If your child(ren) is going to be absent for 5+ days, please contact the office to receive a form that is required to be kept on file for auditing purposes.

School Council

The Bright's Grove School Council is made up of parents, staff representatives, community members and the principal. Input from the various council members shapes school policies and priorities. **Our first meeting will be scheduled for September 13 – 6:30-7:30 PM.** If you are interested in participating, please call or email Nick Nienhuis.

BGPS is "Nut and Other Allergy Aware"



Please be aware that we are a "Nut and Milk Aware" school and as a result, we ask that parents not send foods containing nuts (including peanuts and tree nuts), to school to protect the safety of all members of our school community. This includes any peanut substitution products, as once the product leaves your home, it is impossible to tell the difference. For great suggestions on nut free lunches, visit www.eatrightontario.ca.

COVID-19 Pre-Screening and Etiquette

Prior to attending school, it is still recommended that all students, staff and visitors complete the [daily COVID-19 School Screening assessment tool](#) and follow directions. **Following Public Health guidance, individuals should stay home if they are feeling ill to prevent the spread of illness.**

Electronic Newsletter

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper and copying, we are asking that parents please access the monthly newsletter and calendar through the BGPS website or via our Facebook page (BGPS The newsletter will also be emailed out to the primary and secondary emails provided by parents/guardians. There will be no paper copies sent home this school year.