



FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

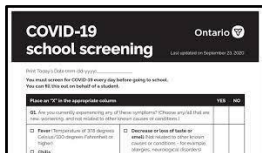


Principal's Message

Dear Gorham and Ware School families, with gratitude and hope we welcome our students back to school. We will spend time re-establishing relationships and routines, and we will meet our students at their current academic level for learning activities. The protocols and procedures for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic are constantly evolving, and we will continue to update you as best we can. Please discuss a "Plan B" with your family in order to be prepared in the event that your child's classroom is directed by public health authorities to move to an online learning model. We hope this does not happen, but it's best to be prepared, as these things can happen with short notice. Be sure to always inform the office of any changes to your contact information.



The Classroom Seesaw App is a wonderful way to send information to you, and for you to send messages directly to the teacher. Homeroom teachers will be sending home information to each family to connect to their class. Please make sure you are connected to this valuable tool! If you need any help, give us a call. Working together, we can provide a safe and supportive learning environment.



All students and staff are required to take and pass the Ontario Provincial Screening Tool prior to attending school each day. Families must ensure, before heading to school each day, that each student attending school in their household passes the Ontario COVID Screening Tool for Childcare and Schools at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Facemasks and Shields

- Students in grade 1-8 are required to wear a mask when inside the school. Masks must be brought from home and taken home daily to be washed. We encourage you to send 3 masks per day, so students can change to a fresh mask as needed.
- Students in JK and SK are not required to wear masks in indoor spaces, **but we strongly encourage this practice if able.**
- The classroom teacher will let parents know what kind of container needs to be brought to school to store the mask while the students are outside playing.
- Mask exemptions will be granted following Board and Ministry of Health Guidelines and direction. Contact the Principal for next steps if your child in Grade 1-8 is unable to wear a mask at school.

Fall Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 7 First day of school 😊
- Sept. 29 Picture Day! Bring your smile!
- Sept. 30 Orange Shirt Day
- Oct. 1 Terry Fox School Run/Walk
- Oct. 11 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Oct. 22 PA DAY no school for students
- Oct. 25 Picture Re-Takes in the morning
- Oct. 29 Halloween Fun Day at School
- Nov. 12 Progress Report Cards go home
- Nov. 18 Parent Interviews
- Dec. 20-31 Winter Break



Our school day is 8:25-2:30.

**Students can arrive each day
between 8:10-8:25 a.m. and
must be picked up
promptly at 2:30 p.m.**

Drop Off + Pick Up:

Students can arrive at school between 8:10-8:25. They go straight inside to their classrooms. Parents dropping off at the front are asked to park in the upper parking lot (or on the street up past the school – so as to not block bus entrance/exit routes) and walk their child to the supervised entrance. Grades 3 to 8 can enter the playground from the upper parking lot. JK to Grade 2 should enter at the bus loading zone. Always enter the bus loading zone from the front door, to be visible to the bus drivers!



Riding the School Bus: Social distancing cannot be maintained on the bus; therefore, we strongly encourage ALL STUDENTS to wear a mask on the bus, regardless of age/grade. Masking is mandatory for Grades 1 to 12. All students will be assigned a seat on the bus in consultation with the driver and the school Principal. All students must sit in their assigned seat and there are NO EXCEPTIONS. Students are seated with members of their family, OR with students from their same classroom. There are no exceptions.

Nutrition Breaks at School

Students will eat a morning nutrition snack and lunch in their classrooms. This year, microwaves will be allowed, and should be available by the end of the first week of school. Many children need to use the microwaves, so they are for quick heating only. Food must be pre-cooked at home.

Please package items in a manner that your child can access independently. Ensure your child can safely open all items, and that any required utensils are included.

WATER BOTTLES are required for each student and should go home regularly to be cleaned. All "water fountains" have been replaced with water bottle filling stations that are available in every hallway.

MILK SALES – White and chocolate milk will be sold daily, later in September. We will send a Seesaw message notifying you of the start date. Students order in their classrooms, and our lunch supervisors deliver the milk to the classrooms. Milk is purchased using MILK CARDS which can be found at SchoolCashOnline. \$10/10 milk or \$20/20 milk. If your child had a milk card last year when school ended, it has been passed on to this year's teacher for continued use.

HOT LUNCH / PIZZA SALES - are expected to occur this year. As we have more information, we will post to Seesaw. Again, SchoolCashOnline will be used to purchase items.



Later in September, we will send home information regarding milk and hot lunch items available to purchase. To prepare for when these items are available, please ensure you have signed up for School Cash Online. It is easy to sign up and very user friendly! You will need your child's OEN number found on his or her report card. JK students will be provided an OEN and it will be sent home within the first few weeks of September.

<https://lakeheadschoools.schoolcashonline.com/>

If you need help accessing SchoolCashOnline, please call the office for assistance.

***Note:** If for any reason you are unable to purchase items online, please call and speak with the Principal. Working together, we can always figure out a way to make sure every student has what they need! 😊



Student Absences:

Student absences are tracked at the office, and if we don't know why your child is absent, you will receive a "Safe Arrival" automated phone call, through which you will be asked to verify their absence. Sending a note to the teacher is appreciated, but the office also needs to know. Please use the automated system shown above (phone or website). **This should be up and running by the end of the second week of school. If you can't access this system, please call or use Seesaw to let us know.**

You can always leave a message on the office answering machine, 24-7. We will get back to you as soon as possible. If you are calling in regards to end of day dismissal routine for your child, please call back until you reach a person, to ensure your child knows the end of day plan. These arrangements should always be made in advance, with a note sent into the teacher, but we know sometimes things can come up throughout the day.



Microwave Use and Lunch Reminders:

Please note and adhere to the following guidelines for student use of the microwaves that are available in every classroom where students eat:

- ✓ Microwaves are only available to use at lunch time (the second Nutrition Break). The morning snack has a shorter eating time; therefore the snack needs to be ready to eat.
- ✓ Food at lunch should be "re-heated" (as in pre-cooked at home and ready to quickly reheat). We ask that you do not send items that take more than 2 minutes to reheat. If possible, heating food at home in the morning, and sending in a thermos to keep warm, is appreciated, and ensures students have time to eat, instead of long lines waiting to microwave.
- ✓ Food to be reheated needs to be in a safe container ready for microwaving and eating.

It is also very helpful if you would check that your child's lunch contains any necessary utensils needed (e.g., fork or spoon).

Thank you for sending healthy food to fuel our students through the day.

PLEASE no pop at school, and limit sweets and treats!

School Staff 2021-2022

Note! Class organization is always in "DRAFT" form at the beginning of each school year, and can change in the first few weeks!

Should any change in class organization effect your child's class placement, you will be notified by a letter sent home as soon as possible.

Principal	Mrs. Abbott
Secretary	Mrs. Stevens
Lunch Hour Supervision	Mrs. Kapush
JK-SK Class #1	Ms. Blekkenhorst & Mrs. Mayes, ECE
JK/SK Class #2	Mrs. Stewart-Schaarschmidt & Mrs. Trapper, ECE
Grade 1	Mrs. Bender
Grade 1/2	Ms. Nattress
Grade 3	Mrs. Tenhunen
Grade 4/5	Mrs. MacLeod
Grade 5/6	Mr. Gamache
Grade 7/8	Mrs. Scherban
Core French + Planning	Mme Kukko
JK-SK Planning	Mrs. Avgeropoulos
Facilitator	Mrs. Lee-Milionis
IST (Library Tech)	Ms. Perrier
Student Support Professionals (SSPs)	Ms. McKay Mrs. Ranta
Chief Custodian	Ms. Jewett
Evening Custodian	Mr. Kriev

Get Involved with School Council!

ALL WELCOME!

The first School Council meeting for this year will be held on Wednesday, September 15th at 6:00. Currently our meetings are virtual. If you would like to receive the link to join the virtual meeting, email School Council Chair Paula Sdao @ sdaopaula@gmail.com or call the school office.

If you are interested in an executive position on the 2021-2022 School Council, fill in and return the School Council Nomination Form, which will be sent home soon. This pamphlet explains the role of Council and will note the date for elections at the October meeting. All parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings to stay informed about our school!



Lunch Supervisors Needed!

Be a part of your child's day in a paid position!

We are ALWAYS in need of extra staff to fill in shifts when our regular supervisors are absent. Lunch Supervisors care for our students while they eat their lunch and play outside for recess at their second Nutrition Break. There is a package that must be filled out for employment which includes proof of a current Police Record Check. Please call the school and ask to have an application package sent home with your child. Call to speak to the Principal for more information.

We are currently seeking to hire a Lunch Hour Supervisor for the Grades 3 to 6 Position! Please call the office if you can help either 5 days / week, or just a few, from 12:00-1:00 each school day.

A great way to stay connected!

Allergy Alert!

**No NUTS or
Nut Products
at school please!**



**Also watch for and respect any
allergy alerts specific to
individual classrooms.**



We are a "Fragrance Free School." Students and visitors should avoid wearing any strong scents such as perfumes, deodorants and other scented products which can trigger reactions in others.

