



GRIFFIN GAB

December 2021

Principal - Mr. T. Wallace
Secretary - Mrs. C. Buchanan



From the Office

Please make sure to check in at the office when you arrive late. School starts at 8:50am. A reminder that only Staff and Students of Glendale are allowed inside the school. If you need to drop off something for your child, please ring the bell and someone will come to the door to meet you.

Also please remember to do Covid Self-Assessment everyday for your child

Mark Your Calendar

Dec 2 – Boston Pizza Lunch

Dec 6,7 – Dental Sreening

Dec 9 – Pita Lunch

Dec 16 – Boston Pizza Lunch

Dec 18 – Ice Dogs Game

Dec 23 – Last Day of classes before Winter Break

School Council

If you are interested in becoming more actively involved in your child's education and the inner workings of Glendale Public School, we encourage you to join our **School Council** Meetings! Contact the school for more details – 905-735-5213 or gln@dsbn.org

Inclement Weather

There are times in Niagara when weather conditions are so poor that we must cancel student transportation, and/or close schools to preserve the safety of students and staff.

The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is not taken lightly; a variety of factors are considered when making this choice. To learn more about how these decisions are made, please go to <https://www.dsbni.org/inclementweather>.

Transportation Cancellations: Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to <https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. When transportation is cancelled, every effort is made to communicate the decision by 6:00 am on the day of the cancellation. There are times when transportation is cancelled, but schools remain open. If, on those days you feel it is best for your child to stay home, please report your child's absence <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/> so we can make sure they are safe at home.

School Closures:

When the decision to close schools is made, it refers to all schools: both in-person and remote learners. Every effort will be made to share school closure information before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find it on [dsbn.org](https://www.dsbni.org), all school websites, DSBNI social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

COVID-19 Update

The Niagara Region Public Health [Schools & Child Care During COVID-19](#) webpage provides Niagara specific guidance for schools and childcare settings, along with helpful resources to support parents/caregivers.

Public Health recommends all eligible individuals be vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccination is the best line of defence for preventing COVID-19 in the school and childcare setting. Visit a [Niagara Region Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic](#), book an appointment online through the provincial portal at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine) or call the booking system at 1-833-943-3900.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 and vaccine eligibility, please visit the Niagara Region Public Health's [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Public health professionals are available to answer any questions through the COVID-19 Info-line Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

- 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074, press 7
- [COVID-19 Info-Line wait times](#)
- [Chat online](#) in 90 different languages with auto-translate

International Travel

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and variants in Canada, the Government of Canada has put additional measure under the Quarantine Act. For more information, please visit [Mandatory Requirements FOR UNVACCINATED CHILDREN](#)

Unvaccinated children 11 years and under AND unvaccinated youth aged 12 – 17
For 14 days after arrival back in Canada, the child must not:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✘ attend school, camp or day care✘ attend a setting where they may have contact with vulnerable or immune compromise people (e.g., long-term care facility), regardless of that person's vaccination status or public health measures✘ travel on crowded public transportation (i.e. bus, subway, train)✘ attend large crowded settings, indoors or outdoors, such as an amusement park or sporting event

- [International travel \(land & air\) - Children](#)
- [Travel Advice and Advisories \(Travel.gc.ca\)](#)

COVID-19 Testing – Which type of test is required?

[Below is a chart that outlines the two most common tests used to detect COVID-19. Although these tests are confusing, we can help shed some light on the difference between the COVID-19 Rapid Antigen and the polymerase Chain Reaction test, most commonly called the PCR test.](#)

COVID-19 lab-based PCR test*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If a child has COVID-19 symptoms• If a child is a high-risk contact of someone with COVID-19• If a child tested positive on a rapid antigen test

Rapid Antigen Test

- Only for screening a child who does **not** have COVID-19 symptoms

If a child tests positive on a rapid antigen test, they must isolate and [have a lab-based PCR test](#) within 48 hours to confirm the positive result.

* This is the most accurate type of test for COVID-19

For more information, visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/testing.aspx>

Celebrating safely – tips and reminders

This holiday season, we are encouraging the families to enjoy the holidays while being mindful of COVID-19 precautions. It is important that families continue following Public Health guidelines when gathering with those who do not live in the same household

[Guidelines for hosting indoor and outdoor gatherings](#)

[When to wear face coverings](#)

When gathering indoors:	When gathering outdoors
with a group of fully vaccinated individuals , you may consider removing your face covering if everyone is comfortable	with a group of fully vaccinated individuals , no face covering or physical distancing is necessary
with people from multiple households who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or status is unknown , you should wear a face covering and physically distance	with people from multiple households who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or vaccination status is unknown , you should consider wearing a face covering if physical distancing cannot be maintained

For more information on staying safe, please visit: [How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)

Mental Health during the Winter Break

With the winter break around the corner, it is important to still keep in mind that the pandemic has not disappeared and taking care of our mental health is still very important. Winter can be more difficult for others due to the time change and having less exposure to daylight. Some may experience mental health impacts, such as sleep disturbances, low interest in activities, fatigue, and irritability (CMHO, 2021). Check out the PDF [Putting Your Family's Mental Wellness First - 7 Tips to get Ready for the Holidays](#), with winter mental health tips created by Children's Mental Health Ontario and School Mental Health Ontario.

Resources:

<https://www.family.cmho.org/mental-health-ready-for-the-holidays/>

<https://www.family.cmho.org/winter-mental-health-tips/>

Dental Screening

The Public Health Dental program will be offering dental screenings this school year. Dental screenings will be provided to students in all grades as required under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

A registered dental hygienist will take a quick look in the child's mouth using a sterilized mirror and light. Staff will be wearing a mask, eye protection, gloves and performing hand hygiene between each student. Students will be asked to remove their masks for 20 - 30 seconds and will be distanced from other students.

Parents/guardians will be contacted if their child requires immediate dental care. The Healthy Smiles Ontario program may financially assist children who do not have access to dental care.

Please contact the Dental program if you DO NOT want your child(ren) to take part in the dental screening.

For more information or to opt-out your child(ren), complete the online School Dental Screening Nonparticipation Form, call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or email dental@niagararegion.ca

Breakfast Club

Every morning we run a snack program that provides a bin of nutritious snacks in each class for the students. As the country becomes more eco friendly, we have had to divert away from bringing plastic cutlery into the school. Therefore, we ask, if you do send items in your child's lunch that require cutlery, that you make sure to pack it. If your child does make use of the snack bins, possibly they could bring a reusable spoon in their lunch bags to use.

We thank you for your understanding in this matter.



School Culture Survey coming January 17 – 31, 2022

We're working towards building an equitable and inclusive school culture across the DSBN, and hearing from you and your child is an important part of this work.

We are proud to be offering the **DSBN School Culture Survey** to students, families and staff. You and your child will have the opportunity to share how you experience your school to help us better understand how we can build and maintain a positive culture for all.



What is the School Culture Survey? The School Culture Survey is a valuable opportunity for students in Grades 4-12, their families and DSBN school staff to help us learn more about your experiences at school. The questions will be organized into five main factors that help create your school culture: Well-Being; Caring and Safe Schools; Sense of Belonging; Equity and Inclusion; Teaching and Learning.

When can Students Grades 4-8 and their Families do the Survey?

Students in Grades 4-8 will be asked to take the survey during class time between **January 17-31, 2022**. Families will be sent the survey to take within this time as well. This survey will be **entirely anonymous and confidential**. While it is voluntary to take, the more responses we receive, the more effective the DSBN can be in supporting your family moving forward.

Where Can I Learn More About This? Check out the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Team's website for more information and Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.dsbn.org/equity/school-culture-survey>.

Please reach out to the school directly for additional questions. We're here to help!