

Denlow Public School

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From the Principal Mr. Friberg

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Denlow Public School Community,

Welcome to the 2022 – 2023 school year. We extend a warm welcome back to the students, parents, and staff returning to Denlow Public School, and a hearty hello and welcome to the great many students and families that are new to the Denlow Community. The excellent learning opportunities that have been a tradition at Denlow will continue throughout the year and we look forward to seeing the students blossom and excel to their full potential.



The TDSB has launched a [Back to School website](#) for parents, caregivers and students that will continue to be updated in the coming days. **Please note that the first day of school is Wednesday, September 7th. The entry bell will be at 9:05 a.m.** At approx. 8:45 a.m. teachers and their classes will be assigned a coloured sign by grade so that students & parents will be able to locate them. All staff will have class lists and this will be when placements are given. There will be no changes to placements at this time.

Earlier this month, the Ministry of Education released its guidance for the new school year. They have stated that schools will begin the year in the same way that we ended last year, with only the most necessary COVID-19 measures in place. We continue to take our health and safety direction from the Ministry and Toronto Public Health and it is important to note that this is the current information and can change based on a change of guidance. **Note that the covid-19 booster is now available for students aged 5 – 11 years of age.**

Screening – Students and staff should continue to do a daily self-assessment before entering school and stay home if they are sick. We are awaiting an updated screening tool from the Ministry and will share as soon as it is available.

Masks – The TDSB continues to be a mask-friendly environment inclusive of all staff and students. While the Ministry of Education and public health officials are not mandating the use of masks, Toronto Public Health strongly recommends wearing a well-fitting, high quality mask, especially in indoor public settings. The TDSB will continue to provide medical masks for staff who request them.

Testing – Rapid Antigen Test kits will continue to be available to students and will be provided upon their request.

Cohorting – Cohorting of classes is no longer required for health and safety reasons. We will have two recess breaks and one lunch break for the students where all grade 1 – 5 students will be together outside instead of cohorts.

Ventilation – One institutional-grade HEPA filter machine is in every occupied classroom. Caretakers will continue to increase ventilation in schools and classrooms with mechanical systems by adjusting the air exchanges and running them before and after classes.

Enhanced Cleaning – Caretaking staff will continue to perform routine cleaning of general facilities throughout the day and enhanced cleaning of high touch surfaces such as light switches, handrails, door handles, etc.



First Day Procedures – In the schoolyard – Grade 1 – 5 teachers will be holding their coloured signs up so parents and students can locate them. Signs on doors will show which half of the classes will be entering the school beside the parking lot and which of the other half will be entering from the backyard.

Grade 1 teachers – GREEN

Grade 2 teachers – ORANGE

Grade 3 teachers - BLUE

Grade 4 teachers (gifted) – YELLOW

Grade 4 teachers (regular) - PINK

Grade 5 teachers (regular) - PINK

Grade 4/5 French teachers - GREEN

Grade 5 teachers (gifted) - YELLOW

Note: split classes will have both colours - example grade 2/3 – orange/blue sign

Kindergarten staff – BLUE – meet outside the kindergarten playground fence

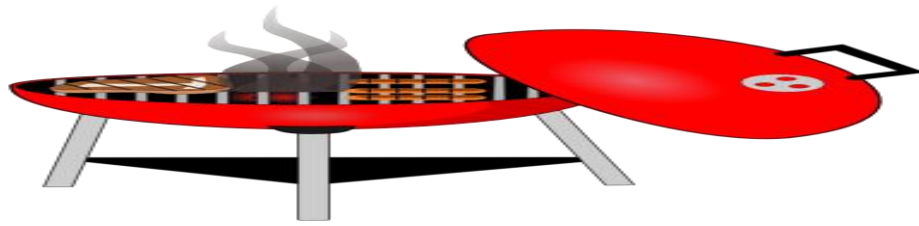
As usual in a smaller school where we have fluctuating enrolment where students move over the summer and we also receive a large number of new students – welcome to them! - the school may not be organized the way we anticipated. Later in September, (the count day is Sept. 19th), there could be factors that may change the school organization that might affect how classrooms are currently organized. The school must be organized based on Ministry regulations regarding class sizes and sometimes our actual numbers by Sept. 19th play a role in determining whether we will be required to reorganize some of our classes to meet the Ministry caps. This is why the office spends effort determining that all students who are here in the regular program do live in the Denlow catchment area. We ask for the patience of parents as some changes may be necessary. If any changes are required by the Ministry they take place on October 3rd. There are no changes to student placements until then.



Parking Lot and Kiss and Ride

Our parking lot is for staff and childcare parents only. Please do not park here. If you are driving to school enter the kiss and ride drive in single lane, have your child ready to leave vehicle, and proceed with caution outside the parking lot turning right onto Denlow Boulevard. We have more students and more buses this year and anticipate that Denlow Boulevard and the parking lot will have increased congestion and we ask for patience and for following these safety procedures. If you choose to park, please park on one of the neighbourhood streets and walk over.

Due to safe schools protocols parents and visitors are not to enter the school without coming to the front door and ringing the bell. All the school doors should be locked and secured at all times. We ask that you follow this directive for everyone's safety. If you are dropping something off that was forgotten (a lunch, a snack, a coat, etc.) or if you are picking up a student early or bringing to school late, please buzz the front door and we will make the connection happen. We highly encourage that all students eat at school and that their lunches are brought to school in the a.m. instead of at lunch. Last year there were a number of students who were repeatedly late to school. Hopefully this will improve this year as it interrupts the office, the other classroom students and teachers, and is not good practice for your child to learn to be on time to school and work.



At this time of year, all of the opportunities are ahead of us. We look forward to a wonderful year filled with academic challenges, sports opportunities, enriching clubs, and building partnerships. We look forward to seeing you all in the school yard at our **Welcome Back BBQ on Thursday September 15th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** The parents are looking for more volunteers so please reach out to Adrian.Sim@hotmail.com if you can spare some time to help out – much appreciated.

Denlow Public School Hours

9:05 a.m.	Entry Bell (students should be lined up in their class line)
9:10 a.m.	Morning Classes Begin – students should be in class
10:50 a.m.	Recess break – Grades 1–5 (one recess for all this year)
11:55 a.m.	Lunch breaks (one lunch break for all this year)
2:35 p.m.	Recess break – Grades 1–5
3:40 p.m.	Dismissal

Dates to Know

Denlow School Barbeque	Thursday, Sept. 15 th 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Grade 4/5 Division Trip	Thursday, Sept. 29 th all day
Terry Fox Run	Wednesday, Sept. 27 th
Orange T-shirt Day	Friday, Sept. 30 th
Thanksgiving – no school	Monday, Oct. 10 th
Photo Day	Tuesday, Oct. 11 th
PA Day – no school	Friday, Nov. 18 th
Winter Break – no school	December 26 th – January 8 th



Important Allergy Information / Birthday Celebrations / Parties

Denlow has a number of students who suffer from life threatening allergies. Peanut allergies are the most common although there are other food allergies that will be outlined in letters to class families in September.

Prevention is the best approach. Therefore, we ask your co-operation in **not sending *any* snacks or lunches containing peanuts or tree nuts with your child.**

Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when these products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. **Please speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students.**

When packing lunches, please read the labels on all pre-packaged treats or individual ingredient packages to ensure that there are no "contains", "may contain," or "processed/manufactured in a facility," statements referencing any kinds of nuts (i.e. peanuts, tree nuts, almonds, walnuts, pecan, hazelnut, pistachios, pine nuts etc.

Please ensure that your child washes their face & hands after breakfast before coming to school especially if they have eaten any of the items that cause allergic reactions.

Some parents may want to send class treats for **birthday celebrations**. Many neighbouring schools do not allow this practice in order to reduce risks to student safety. Like last year there will be **no food provided in classrooms on the day of a child's birthday**. A book could be donated to the classroom in the child's honour. If parents wish to provide non-food items (stickers, pencils etc.) to create a celebratory atmosphere in the classroom, they are welcome to do so. Food brought in will not be allowed in the classroom or distributed on birthday days.

- 1) For **special pre-designated days** (i.e. Halloween, Valentines), there will be opportunities to bring in celebratory food items which will be compliant with the classroom allergy requirements. The class parent representative will assist with informing the parents the items needed for in-class party days.
- 2) Allergy Safe Guidelines for Class Seasonal Parties
 1. We ask that **no home baked** treats, chocolate or candies be brought
 2. The following peanut free/tree nut free food items are appropriate for parties; fruit, vegetables, peanut free potato chips (i.e. Lays), popcorn (i.e. Skinny Pop).
 3. A peanut free symbol does not mean Tree Nut free. Please read the entire label even if there is a peanut free symbol.
 4. If preparing food for a classroom party at home, please ensure that all surfaces, bowls, pots, and utensils, etc. clean prior to preparation in order to avoid cross contamination.

Your understanding and co-operation in ensuring the safest environment is appreciated.



DENLOW SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

The Denlow SAC welcomes back Denlow families and extends a special welcome to our many new families who are joining the Denlow P.S. Parent Community. Throughout the year SAC will keep you up to date on how to support our school for the coming year and also about any events that we may be planning. We would love to also have new members - both current and new families - to come join our SAC.

Please visit our website at www.denlowparents.com/welcome

Please sign up for email communications from SAC: Registering your email is the only way to make sure you learn about all the exciting school council run programs at Denlow. Please complete the following form by September 23rd <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11RK2ReZBgR9k8NisFgMGafyaeXydiWJlml8tbRBrk/edit>

Nominate yourself for the SAC Executive: The Council consists of up to 16 elected positions from which the Executive will decide positions of: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, with remaining nominees being Members At Large. The Executive members commit to attend meetings regularly, vote whenever decisions are required, and assist in Council duties/decisions. All parents are invited to attend the general SAC meetings. More details to follow on the process of nomination, the date of the 1st meeting and the election process - will be in October.

Please make a donation (tax deductible) to provide curriculum enrichment: Like every school in the TDSB, Denlow relies on fundraising to enrich our children's experiences at school. Money raised in previous years were used for laptops, music programs, scientists, Phys Ed equipment and programs for Drama and Well-being. Last year parent donations to SAC ensured that we continued to contribute to virtual speakers, sports equipment, online licenses, and also to other educational enrichment programs. This year a foci will be on the gym audio-visual revitalization plans. Your money helps provide great opportunities for our kids. Tax receipts will be issued for donation of \$25 or more.

Here's how to donate:

Use the TDSB's School Cash Online System. If you haven't signed up for this easy-pay method, register today at www.schoolcashonline.com All SAC and school events use this system as Denlow is a cashless school.

Then visit, <https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/fee/index> and select "Make A Donation" button on the right hand side of the screen. After choosing your amount, make sure to select Denlow Public School as your Fund Destination in the drop down options listed, add the item to cart and you will be prompted to Sign in, Sign Up or Check Out as a guest to complete the payment stage.