

THE LION'S TALE

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September 2023



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year Lions!!! On behalf of all staff at Heximer, I would like to welcome back all our returning students and families. For our students and families new to Heximer, we are excited to meet all our new Lions!

I am grateful to our awesome educational staff for all their hard work and preparation. The classrooms look great and our halls are shining! A big thank you to Miss Clayton, our custodian, who has been busy making sure our school is clean, safe, and ready for us. A big thank you to Ms. St. Louis, our secretary. She does so much to support staff, students and families getting ready for the school year!

We would like to welcome Miss Korody, Miss Froome, Miss Pay, Mrs. Ingribello, and Ms. Lambourne to our Heximer family! We know they are going to be an awesome part of our staff!

Thank you, parents, and guardians, for entrusting us with your children and for reaching out to us when you have questions. Community is everything and communication is what makes it happen! Here's to a year of learning, possibilities, & lots of fun!!!

Please remember to check the calendar on our website for events, trips, and sports!

Dream Big, Work Hard & Be Kind Lions!

Ms. Boon



[DSBN Days of Significance Link](#)

[DSBN Elementary School Year Calendar](#)

[The Heximer Ave Public Calendar Link – Check it Out for Sports, Trips and Events](#)

First Day of School.....	Sept. 5
School Council Meeting	Sept. 26
Rowan's Law Day - Wear purple	Sept. 27
Dental Screening	Sept. 27, 28
Terry Fox Day	Sept. 28
Heximer Open House	Sept. 28
National Truth and Reconciliation Day (wear orange).....	Sept. 30

Class Organization

Please note that should our student enrolment increase or decrease during the first week of school, we may need to reorganize our classrooms to meet the primary class size cap of 20 students per classroom. It may be possible that your child may (or may not be) in the same classroom that assigned for the first day of school. I will keep you informed if student enrolment changes will result in a reorganization. I understand that this can cause some disruption and is a difficult process, but we will do our best to make the transition as smooth as possible. Changes in class placements will only occur should a reorganization be necessary.

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL!!!

Our next School Advisory Council Meeting will be held on September 26th 2022, at 6:00pm. If you would like to be a part of your child's school community, you are always welcome to join! Please email Ms. Boon at Fiona.boon@dshn.org if you have any questions about our School Advisory Council. We can't wait to meet you!



RECOGNIZING AND RESPECTING CREED DIVERSITY

The Niagara Region is growing more diverse in creed and religious beliefs and practices. The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to fostering diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environments that promote acceptance and protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Creed and/or religion is one of the grounds that is both an individual right and a collective responsibility. The DSBN recognizes and embraces the creed diversity represented in its students, staff, and community members.

As we start our school year, I invite you to share with me your family's most significant creed-based holiday(s). We will work together through the accommodation request process as Heximer recognizes the importance of families celebrating their creed and/or religious beliefs and practices.

The DSBN has created a [Family Guide: Recognizing and Respecting Creed Diversity](#) to support families in requesting accommodations. This guide has also been translated into the following languages; Arabic, French, Hungarian, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese, which can be viewed on the [DSBN Equity webpage](#). For a list of Days of Significance, please refer to the [Days of Significance Calendar](#).

BUSSING – NIAGARA STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (NSTS)

Visit Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS). For updated school bus rules and protocols, visit nsts.ca.

- Parents/guardians/students eligible for transportation must notify NSTS that they intend to use transportation to receive service. Students that Opted-In in the previous school year are automatically Opted-In for this school year.

To view transportation arrangements, visit nsts.ca and sign-in to the Parent Portal. For questions about transportation, visit nsts.ca, email general@nsts.ca or call 905-357-6787

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED FOR SEPTEMBER?

We understand that many families like to purchase school supplies. As always, you are welcome to do this but please keep it simple (pencils, erasers, pencil crayons or markers, scissors, and a calculator for our students in Grade 6-8). The school will provide all necessary learning materials. If you need these items, many of our community partners will be providing schools with supplies. Please let the office know. **Please label all items with your child's name to ensure any lost items are returned to their owner.**

Kindergarten	Grades 1-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A BACKPACK that is large enough to carry their lunch bag. ○ LUNCH - Consider packing food in containers that can be easily opened by your child. Healthy snacks are encouraged. ○ REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE ○ HEADPHONES to use with technology. Headphones that cover the ears work best. Place headphones in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc). ○ INDOOR RUNNING SHOES that will be kept at school. (e.g. Velcro and slip on shoes preferred to encourage independence) ○ OUTER CLOTHING (e.g., jacket, snow pants, etc.) appropriate for the weather. ○ A CHANGE OF CLOTHES that will be kept in their locker. Place clothes in a labeled bag (e.g., a large Ziploc bag). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OUTDOOR CLOTHING - In addition to fitness breaks, a portion of your child's day will include outdoor learning and breaks for mask relief. Please send your child to school dressed for the weather. ○ PAIR OF INDOOR SHOES ○ REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE ○ LUNCH ○ BACKPACK ○ HAT AND SUNSCREEN ○ You may choose to provide your child with some basic SCHOOL SUPPLIES; however, the school will supply all necessary learning materials. ○ HEADPHONES to use with technology, in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc)

Things my child should not bring to school from home:

- Toys or stuffed animals
- Any food containing any nut or nut product
- Shared foods (e.g., cupcakes, Timbits due to dietary restrictions)
- Perfume or cologne products

PLEASE



**NO PEANUTS
OR
NUT PRODUCTS**

RESPONSIBLE USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONICS AT SCHOOL

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) has Policies ([D-01: Digital Technology Use by Students](#) and [G26: Use of Mobile Devices by Students](#)) that support the appropriate use of electronics in the classroom. To enhance the learning and empowerment of our students and maintain an effective and safe electronic learning environment, the DSBN requires that all students follow the rules for responsible use of technology as stated in the DSBN Digital Citizenship Agreement and Information Technology Consent (available through School Cash Online).

In addition, if a student wishes to use their personal electronic devices, such as a phone, in the school setting, **we ask that parents review the following expectations with your child:**

- If the device is to be present in the classroom the purpose is solely educational and with teacher's direction and permission.
- The use of this device must not interfere with anyone's learning.
- To protect the privacy and safety of students and staff, personal electronics CANNOT be used to take photographs or videotape, unless under the direct supervision of a teacher for academic purposes.
- Students should not be using their personal phones to call or text without teacher knowledge. Contact with parents must always happen through the office to ensure student safety.
- Devices are never to be used in private areas such as change rooms and washrooms.
- When devices are not in use, they must be turned off and stored in secure location (i.e., locker, backpack)



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DSBN schools and staff will not be held responsible for damage, loss, or theft of personal electronic devices.

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

Everyone has their own unique style and aesthetic. We celebrate students' individuality and respect their ability to express themselves. Our only expectation is that all students come to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment both inside and outside.

When deciding clothing, we ask that all members of our school community are mindful of:

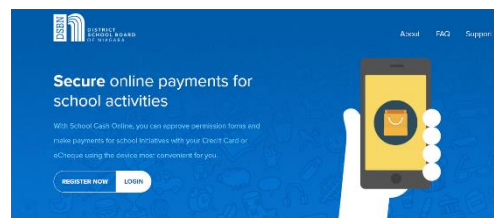


- Health and safety concerns
- The dignity and well-being of all students and staff (i.e. clothing that is free of inappropriate or discriminatory imagery or wording).

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Many important forms will **ONLY BE POSTED ON SCHOOL CASH ONLINE**. Even if you don't use School Cash Online to make school payments, you will need to create an account to complete these forms.

It takes just five minutes to register for this service. You will be able to access the service by visiting our school website and clicking on "[School Cash Online](#)." You'll find more information about the system and links to registration and support there. You can use School Cash Online confidently; it is a safe and secure portal. If you need help with this, please contact the Office and Ms. St. Louis will be happy to help you out! This is an important program and many back-to-school forms that need to be completed throughout the year will be posted here.



IMPORTANT FORMS TO FILL

Most of our very important back to school forms will be available through [School Cash Online](#) during the first week of school. The back to school forms that **are required** to be returned include:

- ✓ A paper copy of the **Student Verification Information Form**: Please check this and make any changes, fill in any missing information, and return it to the school promptly. In the interest of health and safety, it is important that students' medical and contact information is updated each year.
- ✓ **Permission to Participate** - DSBN Curricular (Physical Education) Athletic Program form through [School Cash Online](#)
- ✓ "**Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement**" which must be signed for students to use technology within the school through [School Cash Online](#)

LOCKERS



Due to the increase in class numbers, students in grades 3-8 will be sharing lockers with a classmate. We encourage students to bring no more to school than is needed, and to take it home with them each evening. Older students sharing a locker, can agree to use a lock that they each have the code/key for. Teachers keep a list of which students are using each locker.

PARENTAL AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS

Please inform the school if there are custody orders for your child. Any relevant custody orders **MUST** be kept on file at the office. Please ensure that the school always has the most recent custody orders for your child(ren).

PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy or others) we want to make sure we have a current Plan of Care to support your child. Each new school year, all parents of children with prevalent medical conditions are asked to fill out a new Plan of Care and submit to the school. You can download the forms here dsbn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions. For more information, please contact the school.





Heximer

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Meet the Staff of Heximer Avenue Public School 2023-2024

Homeroom Teachers		Support Staff	
KDG 1 (Kindergarten)	Mrs. B. Clause	KDG 1 Early Childhood Educator	Mrs. Beatty
KDG2 (Kindergarten)	Miss Pay	KDG 2 Early Childhood Educator	Ms. Lambourne
Grade 1	Mrs. C. Blaylock	Educational Assistant	Mrs. Ingribello
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Cobbe & Miss Tonner	Educational Assistant	Mrs. S. White- Hainstock
Grade 2	Mrs. C. Kimonos-Quaranta	Educational Assistant	Mrs. G. Harvie
Grade 2/3	Mrs. J. Costantini	Educational Assistant	Mrs. M. MacNeil
Grade 3/4	Ms. V. Korody	Educational Assistant	Mrs. S. Rittenhouse
Graded 4	Ms. B. Craig	Youth Counselor	Ms. L. Barrow
Grade 5	Ms. A. Froome	Social Worker	Ms. J. Drury
Grade 6	Ms. C. Moor	Social Worker	Ms. S. Deaves
Grade 7/8	Ms. J. Babiy	Lunch Supervisor	Mrs. J. Fare
Grade 8	Mr. R. Christian	Lunch Supervisor	Mrs. A. Barber
School-Based Teaching Staff		Feeder	Mrs. Z. Khan
Music	Mrs. J. Shad	Board-Based Teaching Staff	
French	Mr. N. Pellerin	Multi-Resource Language Coach	Ms. Nguyen
Library	Miss Tonner	Instructional Coach	Mrs. Dixon
LRT	Mrs. S Penner		
LRTI	Mrs. C. Cobbe		

Ms. F. Boon, Principal

Ms. S. St. Louis, Secretary

Ms. R. Clayton Caretaker

Heximer Bell Times	
Morning Supervision	8:50 - 9:05am
Period 1	9:05-9:55am
Period 2	9:55 - 10:45am
Nutrition Break	10:45-11:05am
Fitness Break	11:05-11:25am
Period 3	11:25- 12:15pm
Period 4	12:15 - 1:05pm
Nutrition Break	1:05-1:25pm
Fitness Break	1:25-1:45pm
Period 5	1:45 - 2:35 pm
Period 6	2:35 - 3:25pm
Dismissal & Bus Supervision	3:25 pm

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Attendance Matters!

- School **success** goes hand in hand with good attendance. Make a **commitment** to have your child attend every day and to be on time.
- Children who attend every day are building **positive** habits that last a lifetime.
- Students who attend school are more **engaged** in their learning and are more likely to **graduate**.
- Students who attend daily feel **connected** academically and socially.
- Students who attend daily impact the **achievement** of all students in their class and can help to build a **positive school culture**.

Did you know?

- If your child misses half a day a week in one school year, he/she will miss the equivalent of **one month** of school and learning.
- If your child misses one day a week in a school year, he/she will miss **two months** of school and learning.

Thank you to <https://www.attendanceworks.org/> for this information.

Heximer Entry & Dismissal Routine

7276 Heximer Ave, Niagara Falls (905) 356-0932 <http://heximer.dsbni.org> HEX@dsbni.org

Grade 1 walking students are dismissed by their teacher hand to hand at the front doors. We ask parents and caregivers not to block any of the doorways.

Grade 1-8 morning entry. Parents, please give a kiss and a wave at the gate and enjoy your day. 📸

Grade 2-8 walkers exit here.

Miss Pay & Mrs. Lambourne's Kindergarten Class Entry Gate and Dismissal

Ms. Clause and Mrs. Beatty's Kindergarten Class Entry Gate and Dismissal



NO PARKING - BUS LANE - NO PARKING

Families and students are asked to walk on the right side away from the vehicles.

Staff Only Parking. Driveway closed to all cars for student entry and dismissal.



Entry to the playground begins at 8:50am, when supervision starts. Dismissal is at 3:25pm.

For the safety and security of all students within our class communities:

- Supervision staff are on duty for bussing and in the back field.
- Students must be on time and follow all routines that support the well-being of the whole school.
- Parents and caregivers are asked to say good-bye to their children at the school yard gates and allow them to enter the school yard to join their friends with the support and guidance of the Heximer staff.
- At the end of the day, grade 2-8 students will be dismissed and exit at the same gate they entered in the morning.
- Grade 1 walking students will be handed to parents/caregivers at the doors by the front office.
- Bus students will be greeted in the morning and escorted to the entry gates. After school, they will be directly guided bus by school staff and be monitored until they board the bus, where they will sit in their assigned seat.
- Please speak with your child about appropriate bus behaviour and protocols. A thank you to our bus drivers is always appreciated!
- Please communicate with your child's teacher through the agenda or phone the office if there is a change in your child's pick-up schedule.



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

September 2023

Eyes Ready for the School Year!

Proper vision is important for a student's learning and social development. A full eye exam by an eye doctor (optometrist) is the best way to ensure a healthy eyes and good vision.

The Eye See...Eye Learn® program is for students in junior and senior kindergarten to have a full eye exam (covered by OHIP) with a participating optometrist. If a child needs glasses, they will receive a free pair donated by Plastic Plus, Modern Optical Canada and the participating optometrist. For children aged 19 and under, OHIP covers the cost of a complete annual eye exam and any follow-up assessments that may be required.

A yearly eye exam is recommended – [find an eye doctor near you](#).

For more information, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>

Safely Packing Lunches

1. Clean

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before preparing any meal
- Make sure you sanitize countertops, utensils and any lunch boxes or lunch bags
 - For surfaces and lunch boxes/bags: mix 2.5 ml (1/2 tsp) of bleach with 1 L (4 cups) of water.
 - Apply to surface and let stand briefly.
 - Rinse with clean water and air dry or use a clean towel.
- Wash raw fruits and vegetables before eating

2. Keep Cold Food Cold

- Meat, chicken, seafood, eggs, and dairy products must stay cold to stay safe. Use frozen packs to keep food at or below 4°C (40 F).
- Use an insulated lunch bag and place freezer packs between foods that need to stay cold. Refrigerate the night before to get your lunch bag off to a cool start.

3. Keep Hot Food Hot

- Hot food must stay hot at above 60°C (140°F). Use insulated containers and keep them closed until ready to eat or take your food cold and reheat it



For more information visit https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/food-safety/default.aspx