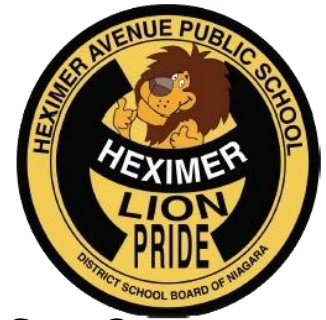


THE LION'S TALE

6727 Heximer Ave,
Niagara Falls, ON
L2G 4T1
(905) 356-0932
<http://heximer.dsbns.org/>
HEX@dsbn.org
September 2022



STAY CONNECTED

Facebook: [Link Here](#)
Twitter: [Link Here](#)
Newsletter: [Link Here](#)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Heximer Family,

WELCOME TO THE 2022-2023 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 that you will be joining us in the Lion's Den!

We can't wait to see the smiles, hear laughter, and feel the positive energy as teachers and students connect and begin building relationships. I am grateful to our amazing staff for their all their hard work and preparation. A big thank you to Mr. Carino, our custodian, who made sure our school was clean, safe and ready for us.

Thank you also to the plant staff at the DSBNS, who are working hard overseeing the construction of our new elevator, and new breakfast kitchen!

Please check the important start up information that follows. I know it's a lot – This includes **our New Bell Times!**

Thank you, parents and guardians, for entrusting us with your precious 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, extra-curriculars, possibilities & fun!!!
Dream Big, Work Hard & Be Kind Lions!

Ms. Boon



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

School Office Opens.....	Aug. 29
Labour Day	Sept. 5
First Day of School	Sept. 6
Terry Fox Day	Sept. 23
School Council Meeting.....	Sept. 27
Rowan's Law Day - Wear purple	Sept. 28
Orange Shirt Day - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.....	Sept. 30
School Open House	TBD

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL



Our next School Advisory Council Meeting will be held on **September 27th 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@dsbn.org if you have any questions about our School Advisory Council and how you can be a part of it.

Meet the Staff of Heximer Avenue Public School

Homeroom Teachers		Support Staff	
KDG 1 (Kindergarten)	Mrs. B. Clause	KDG 1 Early Childhood Educator	Mrs. Beatty
KDG2 (Kindergarten) Mr. D. Stephenson (09/06-10/28)	Mrs. J. Dobrosavljevic-Stewart (DS)	KDG 2 Early Childhood Educator	Ms. Campbell
Grade 1	Mrs. C. Cobbe	Educational Assistant	Miss. J. Anderson
Grade 1	Mrs. C. Blaylock	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. J. Neil
Grade 3/4	Mrs. L. Ardito-Wright	Educational Assistant	Mrs. M. MacNeil
Graded 4	Miss B. Craig	Educational Assistant	Mrs. S. Rittenhouse
Grade 5	Ms. C. Moor	Youth Counselor	Ms L. Barrow
Grade 6	Mrs. L. Bergen	Social Worker	Mrs. S. James
Grade 7	Ms. J. Babiy	Lunch Supervisor	Mrs. J. Fare
Grade 8	Mr. R. Christian	Lunch Supervisor	Mrs. S. Deniss
School-Based Teaching Staff		Feeder	Mrs. Z. Khan
Primary Phys.Ed, Music, Drama/Dance	Mrs. J. Shad	Board-Based Teaching Staff	
French & Health	Mr. N. Pellerin	Multi-Resource Language Coach	Miss F. Primeau
LRT	Mrs.S Penner	Instructional Coach	Mrs. S. Feduck
LRT, Library & Rotary	Mrs. N. Fehrman		
Ms. F. Boon, Principal Miss A. Cosby, Administrative Assistant Mr. J Carino, 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

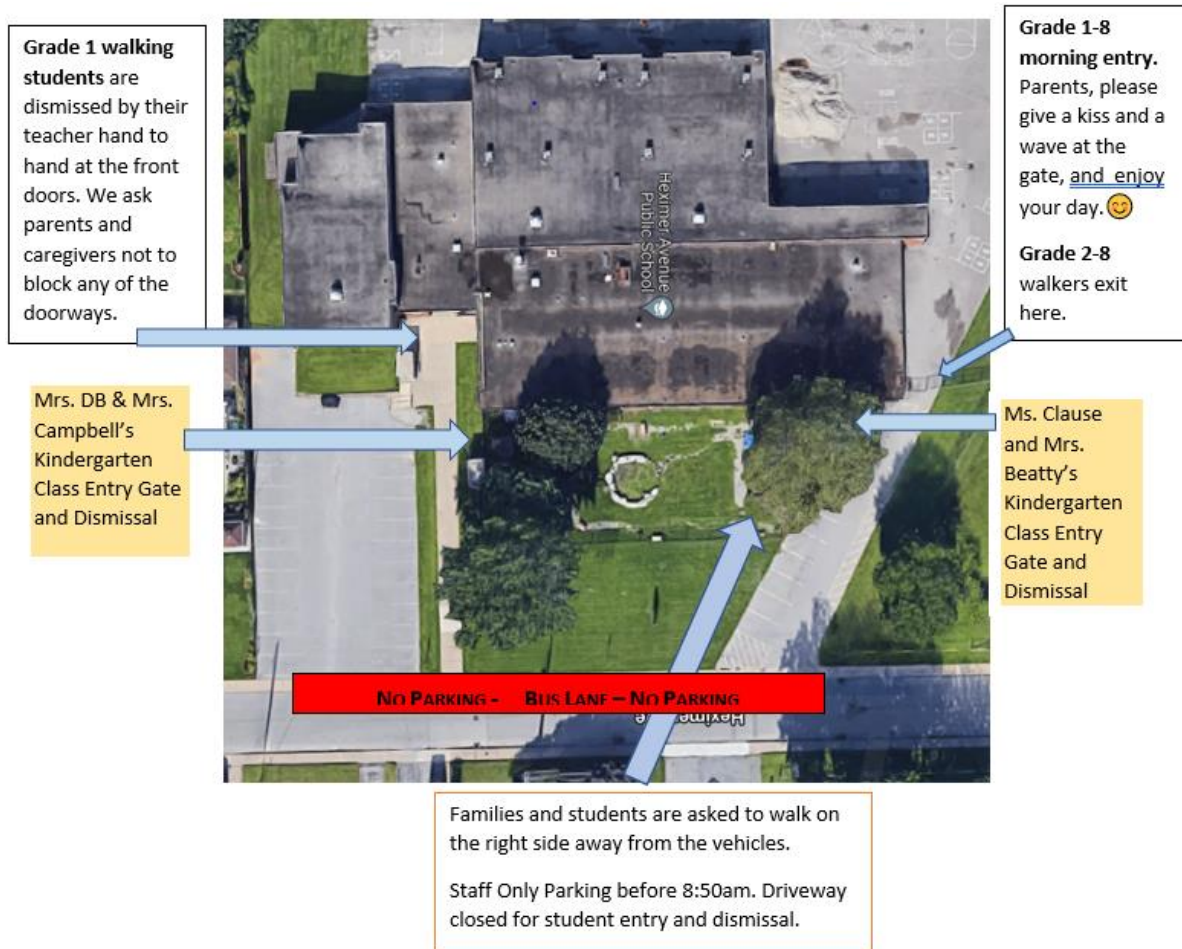
Class Organization

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.

SUPERVISION, ENTRY (8:50AM), & DISMISSAL (3:25PM)

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

- Please do not come too early to school.
- Do not park in the parking lot where students walk up.
- Supervision staff are on duty for bussing and in the back field by 8:50am each morning.
- **At entry, grade 1-8 students** will enter the gate by the 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 dismissal, grade 2-8 students** will exit at the same gate they entered in the morning. No cars are allowed to park at this time.
- **At dismissal, Grade 1 walking students** will be handed to parents/caregivers at the front doors.



- **Bus students** will be greeted in the morning and escorted to the entry gate. After school, they will be directly guided to the 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. Do not email teachers during the day with this information.
- **Kindergarten students** will be greeted and returned to parents/caregivers at their designated gate.
- If your Kindergarten child arrives by bus, they will be greeted at the bus stop by a member of our Kindergarten team.
- If your child arrives after the bell, parents will be asked to say good-bye to their child at the front doors and your child will be brought to their classroom by a staff member.

WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

This year we have provided all students with a Heximer Water Bottle! They will be handed out on the first day. We understand that many families like to purchase school supplies. As always, you are welcome to do this but please keep it simple. 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 – our treat! ○ 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. Please send your child to school dressed for the weather. ○ PAIR OF INDOOR SHOES ○ REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE – our treat! ○ LUNCH ○ BACKPACK ○ HAT AND SUNSCREEN ○ HEADPHONES to use with technology, in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc) ○ You may choose to provide your child with some basic SCHOOL SUPPLIES (pencils, erasers, pencil crayons or markers, scissors, and a calculator for our students in Grade 6-8); however, the school will supply all necessary learning materials.
<p>Masks will remain optional for students, staff and visitors in schools, school board offices, and on student transportation. Free high-quality masks for students will be provided to those who request them.</p>	
<p>Things my child should not bring to school from home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	

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.

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).

PARENT/CAREGIVER ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

One of our goals is to maintain a safe school environment that minimizes the number of classroom disruptions to ensure we maximize our learning time. For this reason, parents are asked to remain at the front doors or in the foyer for pick-up and drop-off of students. Parents will not have access to classrooms and unscheduled visits are not permitted. Please note that ALL visitors must make an appointment with the office prior to entering the school.

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.

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 for school purposes, they must be turned off and stored in a secure location (i.e., locker, backpack)

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

MORNING ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken twice daily. Help us to ensure the safety of our students by reporting your child's absence or if they will be arriving late to school. If we do not hear from you, we will call you either at home, on your cell, your place of employment and your emergency contacts. Students who arrive late to school (morning or afternoon) must report to the office.

Using the [Safe Arrival](#) system, parents will be able to report daily absences, and even schedule absences in one of three ways:

1. Call toll-free before bell time: 1-866-606-5567
2. Logging on to the web portal (<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/login>). Using this website, you can set up your account to report and schedule absences.
3. Using your smart phone or tablet. Simply download the SchoolMessenger app. The app is compatible with both Apple and Android devices.

Please report all absences prior to bell time for the current day. If your child has an upcoming appointment, you can also schedule future absences by using the Safe Arrival system.

If you are changing your child's pick-up time, the office must know by 2:30 pm as it gets busy near the end of the day and some classes may be extending their learning outside at that time.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. To respect your valuable time, we'd like to make it a little easier and less time consuming for you to connect with our school. With [School Cash Online](#), you will be able to approve permission forms and make payments for any of these items online. Understanding that we're quickly becoming a cashless society, we know it can sometimes be a challenge to find exact change for items and then send it to school through your child's backpack. Using [School Cash Online](#), you'll be able to make quick and easy payments online. It will also allow you to track payments made and receive an invoice for your purchases. As we are trying to minimize papers travelling between school and home, we encourage all families to register for [School Cash Online](#).

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](#)
- ✓ an "Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement" which must be signed in order for students to use technology within the school through [School Cash Online](#)

LOCKERS

Due to the increase in class numbers, students in grades 4-8 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. 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.

ANAPHYLAXIS – BE NUT AWARE!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction to certain food substances. We have students in our school that suffer from a severe allergy which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. An anaphylactic reaction is an allergic reaction so severe that in some cases, it can be life threatening. These children have a severe allergy to nuts. Prevention is the best approach. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in not sending any snacks or lunches containing nut products with your child.

THE NOSE KNOWS – NO SCENTS MAKES SENSE

Scented products have chemicals that can cause health reactions in people with asthma, migraines, allergies, or environmental sensitivities. Please help keep our air breathable for everyone and use unscented or scent reduced products where possible. Heximer is a Scent-Reduced Environment. Some staff and students have a sensitivity to odours, smells, and scents. Please do not wear, or send your child with, perfume, cologne, after shave, or scented body lotion into the school.

MENTAL HEALTH FAMILY SUPPORTS

As the return to school approaches, most students typically experience a variety of emotions; some may be excited, others may be nervous or worried, and most will have mixed feelings. There are many ways that parents and caregivers can help prepare students for a mentally healthy return to school. The DSBN has compiled some high-quality, current resources, which are available on our website at www.dsbn.org/programs-services/well-being/. We encourage our families to visit the Parent Resources page frequently throughout the school year to access updated information.

COVID PROTOCOLS

We encourage daily screening for students, staff and visitors. Students, staff and visitors should not attend school if they are sick. Please refer to the Province of Ontario's [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#).

We have Rapid Antigen Tests available at the office. If you would like some tests for your family, please contact the office through email hex@dsbn.org or with a phone call. If you are emailing, please indicate if you would like to pick up the tests or have your child bring them home. Please be sure to include your child's name in the email.

NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE FREE PROGRAM [HTTPS://WWW.NFCHC.CA/](https://www.nfchc.ca/)

The Niagara Falls Community Health Centre (NFCHC) is non-profit, community governed, multi-service health centre that provides primary health care, health promotion, and community development services all under one roof at no cost. NFCHC responds to the health needs of individual patients and their families, as well as to the health concerns of the community. We are committed to providing accessible services, the empowerment of individuals and communities, service integration, illness prevention and comprehensive client care.

Program Links can be found here: <https://www.nfchc.ca/programs>

CHECK OUT DSBN E-FLYERS FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS & SPORTS

Many community events and activities are posted on the DSBN eFlyers website. I encourage you to take a look, on occasion, to ensure you do not miss any community events that might be of interest to you or your family. To view the eFlyers, please follow the simple instructions:

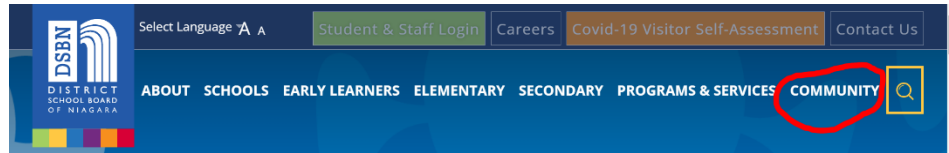
1. Log onto our website:

www.dsbn.org

2. Click on "Community" tab

3. Click on "eFlyer Request" and you

may browse through the 'Recent eFlyers' to find offerings from a variety of community organizations.



BUSSING NSTS.CA

For information about bussing, school bus rules and protocols, please visit nsts.ca. NSTS is following Ministry of Education and local public health guidelines for student transportation.

- Students who Opted-In to ride the bus in the 2021-22 school year will be automatically assigned a seat for the 2022-23 school year
- Students who are eligible for the bus and did not ride last year, are required to notify NSTS if they intend to ride the bus this year to ensure they have a seat assigned. Visit nsts.ca and sign-in to the Parent Portal to view your Opt-In to Transportation status
- Complete the Opt-In to Transportation Form if you need to change your status
- Consider signing up under "My Subscriptions" in the parent portal to be notified through email of any delays in your child's transportation
- If you haven't already done so, please download the BusPlanner Delay app for easy access to your child's transportation updates. Download the app on the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store!](#)

To view preliminary 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

Parents may choose to drive their child to school. Please do not block the school driveways or bus lane in front of the school. Parking is available in the large parking lot on the office side of the property. The school parking lot where students walk up is reserved for staff only, and is blocked off for student safety during morning entry and dismissal. Please be patient and help to ensure the safety of all our students and families!

