



DYS STAR GAZE-ette



Waatebagaa-giizis

Septembre

Principal: Ms. Serena Maharaj

Vice Principal: Mrs. Melanie Williams

September 5th, 2023

Website: dys.rdsb.com



School Council

If you are interested in joining our School Council, please use the link to complete the School Council Interest form. Please do so before Friday, September 22nd.

[2023-24 School Council Interest Form](#)

Details regarding our first School Council meeting/ election will follow shortly. **Everyone is welcome!**

The council is required to meet four times a year and meetings typically last about an hour to an hour and a half.

Parents who serve on Council play a vital role in the education of their children and in the functioning of the school. Council members often report that they feel more informed about their child's education and about how the education system works. If you have an interest to join and a desire to be informed we would love to have you involved.



KISS N' RIDE/BUSSING

Process for bus drop-off and pick-up:

- Busses will drop-off no earlier than 8:35am
- Busses will enter the bus loop in the "enter only" entrance and depart out of the "exit only" entrance.
- Busses will arrive prior to the end of day bell when students are dismissed.
- When the bell rings, students will follow the walkway to their bus door and then enter the bus.

Process for Kiss and Ride:

- Students will exit the building from their designated exit and wait on the socially distanced markers adjacent to the school walkway, awaiting their pick-up.
- Kiss and ride vehicles will enter the loop through the "enter only" entrance and proceed to lane 2. Kiss and ride vehicles can then pull into lane 1 in front of the busses at the designated loading zone.

All students must load and unload vehicles in the kiss and ride through the curbside. There will be no exceptions made to this as it is essential for student safety. Parents will be responsible for seatbelt assistance. Supervisors will only open car doors.

Once the students are safely loaded and buckled in, if it is safe to do so, the vehicle may pull out and exit the "exit only" entrance to the road. Please place booster seats on the curb/passenger side so that there is no need for staff or parents to be loading on the laneway.

We would like to thank all of the parents who are doing a fantastic job supporting the new school procedures each day whether it's Kiss N' Ride, bussing or the late arrival process. Thanks everyone!

Thank You!

Morning Procedure

This year, students will remain outdoors upon arrival to school. Students will be permitted to enter the building when the morning bell rings at 8:45 a.m.

Students are encouraged to hang their backpacks on the fence tops to keep bags off the ground as they play and socialize with their friends.

As the weather cools, please ensure your child is properly dressed to be outside. As always, when the weather is too wet or too cold to be outside (as per the RRDSB policy), students will be supervised indoors.

Please note that there is no supervision on the playground prior to 8:35 a.m. Students will wait outside in the playground area or in their buses, if they arrive early.

2023-2024 DYS All-Star Staff

Ms. Serena Maharaj - Principal Mrs. Melanie Williams - Vice Principal



Staff Listing

Ms. B. Loveday, Secretary
 Junior/Senior Kindergarten - Ms. K. Bolen
 Junior/Senior Kindergarten - Mr. D. Marissen
 Early Childhood Educator - Mrs. C. Lepage
 Grade 1 - Mrs. A. vanZwol
 Grade 2 - Ms. C. Carlson
 Grade 3/4 - Mrs. S. Davidson-George
 Grade 4/5 - Mrs. A. Smith
 Grade 5/6 - Ms. L. Sibbick
 Grade 7 - Ms. M. Lucas
 Grade 8 - Mr. D. Dalseg
 Primary Prep - Mrs. K. Veldhuisen
 Special Education - Mrs. A. Spicer
 French/Primary Prep - Mrs. T. Carpenter
 Ojibwe/Primary Prep - Ms. S. Guimond

Communication Assistants

Mrs. R. McQuaker, Mrs. K. Agombar

Education Assistants

Mrs. J. Vargas
 Mrs. D. Ogden
 Ms. T. McQuaker
 Mrs. C. Judson
 Mrs. T. McGinnis
 Ms. S. Medicine
 Mrs. S. Drennan
 Mrs. T. Romyn
 Mrs. H. Fritsch
 Ms. C. Fowler

Autism Support Worker

Mrs. S. Kuchma

Library

Mrs. M. deGroot

Youth Outreach

Worker

Ms. L. Brown

Caretakers

Mrs. R. Siemens
 Ms. T. Angus
 Ms. T. Hagen
 Mr. R. Ball

Upcoming/Important Dates

Scholastic Book Fair	Tuesday, Sept. 19 - Thursday, Sept. 21
Terry Fox Run/Walk	Friday, Sept. 22
Soccer Tournaments - Gr. 4-6, Gr. 7 & 8	Gr. 4-6 Tuesday, Sept. 26 Gr. 7 & 8 Wednesday, Sept. 27
Grade 7 Immunizations - NWHU	Thursday, Sept. 28
Orange Shirt Day	Friday, Sept. 29

Bell Times



8:35	Supervision Begins
8:50	First Bell
8:50	First Block Begins
10:38	First Break
11:23	Second Block Begins
12:59	Second Break
1:44	Third Block Begins
3:20	Dismissal

REMINDER:

SCHOOLS REQUIRE ACCURATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact your child's school to provide any changes to all custody & emergency contacts' addresses, phone numbers, or email addresses. As we are moving to a new data system, we want to ensure that we can continue our ability to communicate effectively with families.





Dorion Chambers
Child & Youth Mental Health Clinician
Kenora Rainy River Districts Child and Family Services

Dorion is a registered Social Service Worker with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Services Workers. Dorion has been working in the Social Service Field for over 20 years. Dorion will be working with children as a school-based clinician addressing challenges related to anxiety, depression, ADHD, self-regulation, coping skills, relationship and social skills.

RRDSB Code of Conduct

[CLICK HERE](#)

Dorion will be available at DYS Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays each week.

Mental Health Memo Coping With Back to School Anxiety



Anxious feelings are normal and expected in children and teens when returning to school, changing schools, or for those starting Kindergarten. Transition back to school can be stressful and disruptive for the entire family.

Common things that anxious children and teens worry about related to school include, teachers, friends, fitting in, and/or being away from their parents.

Consider these 5 steps to deal with back-to-school worries:

- Take care of the basics- ensure your child gets enough sleep, eats healthy foods, and exercises regularly.
- Provide empathy- listen to their worries and why they expect these things to happen.
- Problem solve- help them to plan how they can cope with difficult situations.
- Focus on the positive- re-direct your child to those things they are looking forward to about school.
- Pay attention to your own behaviour- model calm and confidence.

While worrying about back-to-school is normal, it is important to ensure your child attends regularly. Skipping school will actually increase their fears because they miss the opportunities to dispel their worries and the chance for success and mastery of academic and social skills.

Check out the 12-step back to school checklist for parents from Anxiety Canada:

<https://www.anxietycanada.com/articles/our-12-step-back-to-school-checklist-for-parents/>

For more information, please contact the RRDSB Mental Health Leader: tracey.idle@rrdsb.com

Hot Lunch & Breakfast Program

DYS is hopeful in organizing these services again for this school year. Updates and details will follow. As of right now, we have emergency items available to students who might require a snack, (individually wrapped single serve items- i.e. cheese sticks).

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to organize these programs.

After School Plans for your Child

Please ensure your child's teacher knows what the after school plan is for your child.

SeeSaw, email, or agendas are the means of communication that we are supporting for parent-teacher contact. Please feel free to contact the school during the day if any plans change; we will get the message to the teacher. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Safety is our first priority as always

Don't Forget...

Please ensure your child has a refillable water bottle and a pair of indoor shoes for school.



**Text us your child's
absence at
807-275-8855**

Principal's Message:

We are very pleased to welcome our DYS All-Stars to the 2023-2024 school year and Mrs. Melanie Williams as the new Vice Principal! Our dedicated staff have been working hard to ensure that the first few days back to school have been very exciting and a smooth transition for all students. There are a few events currently scheduled for this month and we look forward to welcoming the DYS School Community to the upcoming Book Fair. If you would like to volunteer for this school event or for any other events, please contact the office to be added to our DYS volunteer list. School Council will also be occurring this year and details will follow.

At any time, please do not hesitate to contact the office for assistance.

We look forward to having a fantastic year at DYS!

-Ms. Maharaj