



Northern News

October 2nd, 2023

Dear Northern Dancer Families:

Happy Thanksgiving Northern Dancer families! We are grateful for the wonderful partnerships between parents and school. Together we can create an excellent learning environment for our pupils.

Lots is happening in the DDSB and at Northern Dancer! We look forward to our first School Community Council meeting on Wednesday at 6pm. If you're interested in joining our SCC, please fill out the google form below. October is Islamic Heritage Month. Check out the link below on events happening to learn and celebrate Islamic Heritage in Durham.

A reminder that there is no school on Friday, October 6th and Monday, October 9th for Thanksgiving.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct for Northern Dancer P.S. is designed to provide a framework to ensure that school is a safe, productive learning environment for all. We ask families to review this Code of Conduct and the Student Code of Conduct Summary so that all parties are familiar with school expectations and procedures. The Code of Conduct is for all staff, students, parents/guardians and visitors at Northern Dancer PS.

[Northern Dancer Code of Conduct](#)

[Student Code of Conduct - Northern Dancer PS.pdf](#)

Drive n' Drop - Entry and Dismissal

We encourage all students to walk to school. It lessens traffic congestion and is great exercise. Should you need to drive your child to school, please be patient in our Drive and Drop lane and follow the rules, or park on a side street and walk onto property.

If you have older children there is no need to come to school before 2:30 pm for dismissal. If you wait until the dismissal bell or a few minutes after before coming to school, a lot of traffic congestion is gone from parents of children in younger grades. Direct your older children to come and wait on the sidewalk in the Drive n' Drop area, closest to the school (not the portables).



At entry, please remember:

- Please **pull forward and all the way up to the end of the Drive and Drop lane** so several cars can stop behind you at the same time.
- **Your child to exit the car from the passenger side doors**
- Ensure that your child's backpack is in the backseat and within reach for easy exit.
- Do not get out of your car. Staff will help your child exit the vehicle

At dismissal, please remember:

- pick up and drop off at the curb closest to the school, not at the turn near the portables
- walk on the sidewalk and path, not through the parking lot
- do not let your children load or unload the car in the first drive of the laneway; wait until you are around the bend at the sidewalk beside the school
- follow all directions from staff
- be patient, drive slowly!

Together we can keep Northern Dancer safe!



School Community Council

The **School Community Council (SCC)** is an advisory body that makes recommendations to the Principal to further student achievement and well-being and also supports ongoing parent engagement between the school and families. The SCC comprises of general members and an elected executive - Chairperson(s), Treasurer and Secretary. SCC meets 4 -5 times a year. The DDSB SCC Handbook outlines the responsibilities of the SCC:

<https://www.ddsb.ca/en/family-and-community-support/resources/Documents/School-Community-Councils/SCC-Handbook.pdf>

We encourage any interested parent or community member to put their name forward. **If interested, please complete this google form:** <https://forms.gle/5pbzpDy1WcjkRrGu5> .

Our first meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 3rd at 6:00pm**. At this meeting we will elect our executive and set our future meetings for the school year. You can learn more about School Community Councils here:

<https://www.ddsb.ca/en/family-and-community-support/school-community-councils.aspx>

All SCC members must abide by DDSB policies and procedures (including the SCC Policy, the Indigenous Education Policy, the Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy, the Safe and Respectful Workplace Policy, the Code of Conduct, and related procedures).

Each member of the SCC must uphold their responsibilities under these policies and procedures within the scope of the SCC's mandate and within the scope of their role, authority, and influence in all SCC meetings, actions, recommendations, decision-making, communications, and initiatives, including their responsibilities to:

- Treat SCC members and participants with dignity and respect
- Promote and protect human rights
- Identify, prevent, and address human rights barriers, issues, and discriminatory structures

We look forward to meeting our 2023-2024 SCC!

Gifted Testing

The DDSB is offering a gifted screening test for students in Grades 3 or higher. The process begins with nominations. Families may nominate students in Grade 3 or above. The week of

November 6th, students who have been nominated will participate in an intellectual assessment using a cognitive abilities test called the CCAT. Students may take the test with the DDSB no more than twice.

If you are a grade 3 parent, please fill in the survey emailed to you by your child's teacher even if you DO NOT want your child to participate in testing this year (there is an option to decline testing on the form). If your child is in grades 4

- 8 please contact your child's homeroom teacher or SERT to request the electronic nomination form. The nomination form will be open on **Oct. 3rd at 9:00 a.m.** and will close at **9pm on October 11th, 2023**. Please note that late submissions cannot be accepted.



Community Connections

Islamic Heritage Month

There are many opportunities to celebrate and learn during Islamic Heritage Month at the DDSB! Please check out the events organized by Muslim Educators Network Durham:

[MEND Islamic History Month 2023.pdf](#)

Coding & Robotics



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10 am - 11:30am**

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