



# DeWitt Carter Public School

## Dragon's Digest

### January 2021 "Caring"



Mr. T. Acaster - Principal  
Mrs. M. Shaw - School Secretary

Mr. D. Shaubel - School Board Trustee  
School Phone - (905)834-7440

#### DeWitt Carter Public School Mission Statement

*"Our mission is to support student learning in a safe environment where all students are motivated to learn and are willing to take risks so they can become positive contributors to our society."*

#### A Message From Mr. Acaster

*From all of us here on staff, we wish you a safe and happy holiday!*

As I write this, we are covered with a pure white blanket of beautiful, fluffy snow. The students are running around in it, laughing, without a care in the world. The chill in the air makes our cheeks bright and rosy. There is a definite anticipation of the upcoming holiday and the wonderful times it brings with each other. I would like to thank our community for their generosity at this time of year. We have received mittens, socks and toques from the Education Foundation of Niagara. We had toy donations from the Minor and Rogers family as well as from the NBS Riders. This wonderful generosity is truly appreciated and brings a huge smile to our faces and warmth to our hearts.

I know that there is much apprehension as to what our new year will bring us. It has already been a very different year at school. At the time of this being posted, we are expecting to return to school on January 4<sup>th</sup> and we are really looking forward to that. If there is a change in any way, we will make every effort to keep our families informed through school messenger service and our DeWitt Carter and DSBN websites. For now, we hope that your family is able to disconnect from some of the things in the world and have time together. The children are simply busting with excitement at the thought of their two weeks with family and the events in which they will take part in the next few days. Enjoy every moment and stay safe. No matter how different this holiday will look for you, these are the times that build the memories that we hold onto, years from now.

On behalf of all of us here, we wish you and yours, a wonderful holiday. We will see everyone on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

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#### Kindergarten Registration is Approaching

With January on the horizon, it is that time of year to start thinking about Kindergarten Registration. The first day of Kindergarten is an exciting day for both you and your child. Prepare for the journey ahead by registering early for our September 2021 start up. Our On-line registration opens January 28<sup>th</sup> and can be found at [DSBN.ORG/KINDERGARTEN](http://DSBN.ORG/KINDERGARTEN). At this writing, the DSBN Early Learners webpage is being updated to reflect current information. It will reflect this before January 28<sup>th</sup>.

If you know of a family who has a Kindergarten age child, let them know about this registration opportunity with us. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at the school at 905 834-7440. We are tentatively planning to have an Open House for our new Kindergarten families this Spring. We will make sure that we communicate this to you as it approaches.

**January 15<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Development Day and there is no school for students.**



## **Inclement Weather**

### **Message for Families**

There are times in Niagara when weather conditions are so poor that we must cancel student transportation, and/or close schools to preserve the safety of students and staff.

The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is not taken lightly; a variety of factors are considered when making this choice. To learn more about how these decisions are made, please go to <https://www.dsbm.org/inclementweather>.

### **Transportation Cancellations:**

Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to <https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. When transportation is cancelled, information is shared before 6:00 am on the day of the cancellation. There are times when transportation is cancelled, but schools remain open. If, on those days you feel it is best for your child to stay home, please report your child's absence <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/> so we can make sure they are safe at home.

### **School Closures:**

**When the decision to close schools is made, it refers to all schools: both in-person and virtual schools.** School closure information is shared before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find it on dsbn.org, all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

### **Student Work on School Closure and Transportation**

#### **Cancellation Days:**

**For elementary students** - On days where transportation is cancelled and/or schools are closed, please visit your child's school website and click on the "Learn From Home" button. There you will find optional asynchronous learning resources.

**For secondary students** – Students will be able to access online materials for their courses. If it is a culminating activity day, special arrangements will be made and communicated to students centrally.



## **Snow/Snowballs**

To ensure the safety of students on our playground during the winter months, it is necessary for us to ban the throwing and kicking of snow and ice. The students are constantly reminded of this rule during in-class discussions, assemblies and over the morning announcements. Should it be found that a student has violated this rule, his/her name is recorded in the office and the appropriate consequences will be given. This includes suspension for repeat offenders who endanger the safety of others.



**Please remind your children of these rules!**



## **Dress for the Weather as well as the Season**

As the cold weather is now upon us, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Students are expected to go outside twice a day unless it is extremely cold or wet. Hats, mittens, proper footwear and warm coats are essential in the cold weather. Remember that students should have separate indoor footwear.

Flu season is here! Please remember to call the school office to report any student's absence at (905)834-7440 or report the absence in Safe Arrival.

School starts at 9:00 a.m. and any late students must report to the office to sign in. This will avoid any unnecessary call home. In the interest of the safety of our students, your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

