

WOLVERINES

WILLIAM DUNBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

STRIVING TO REACH OUR POTENTIAL



WILLIAM DUNBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL– MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to all our William Dunbar families – to familiar faces and to those who are new to our school community. We trust that everyone had a wonderful summer and that the back-to-school start-up and routine has been a smooth one for you and your children.

It's great to be back, isn't it? We truly love the beginning of the new school year – with all the promise it holds for each and every member of our school community. While it's true that the beginning of a new school year can create anxiety in some, we hope that you will join us by emphasizing a positive view of the fresh beginning with your child(ren). We are committed to creating a safe and caring environment here at WDPS – one in which your child(ren) can grow, learn and achieve.

As you are aware, there have been some staffing changes at our school over the summer.

We are pleased to introduce **Ms. Krista Lloyd**, who is our new Grade 1 teacher, and, **Ms. Melissa Masson**, who is teaching a few Junior French classes and the Language program for Ms. Stinson's Grade 7/8 students. As well, we are welcoming back two staff members, **Mrs. Yee**, who will be teaching Grade 4/5, and **Mrs. Farrell**, our ECE, who is partnering with Mrs. Stanoev in FDK. Not only do these four educators bring experience, they also bring tons of enthusiasm and new expertise to our school. Welcome to all our new and returning Wolverine team members!

You may have noticed a few other changes this year. We hope you will check out the Buddy Bench in our playground. The idea for this installation was spearheaded by our student group, Ally Avengers, and financially supported by our SCC. It's absolutely awesome! We have a new timetable schedule – one that divides our school day into six 40 minute periods and two thirty minute ones. As well, we have introduced a new 70-minute block of time called STEM/Inquiry to our weekly timetable. This gives teachers time to build cross-curricular activities and investigations into their programming and gives students the opportunity to combine and apply the skills they master in separate disciplines to solve problems and find solutions to authentic tasks. We are very excited about this new extension to our classroom programming.

September promises to be a busy month here at school. Our school Curriculum Night and Pizza Dinner is set for Thursday, September 12. We encourage you to pre-order your pizza dinner through School Cash Online before the cut-off date of September 10th. Food will be available from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.. Classrooms will be open from 5:30 – 6:30. (Grade 7 & 8 students and families are asked to gather promptly at 5:30 p.m. in the gym for a brief meeting before heading to the classrooms.) We always look forward to this super kickoff to the school year. Please plan to attend!

Other events include: our school photos on September 13 and our annual Terry Fox Run set for Friday, September 27. We encourage you to get involved in the goings-on at our wonderful school!

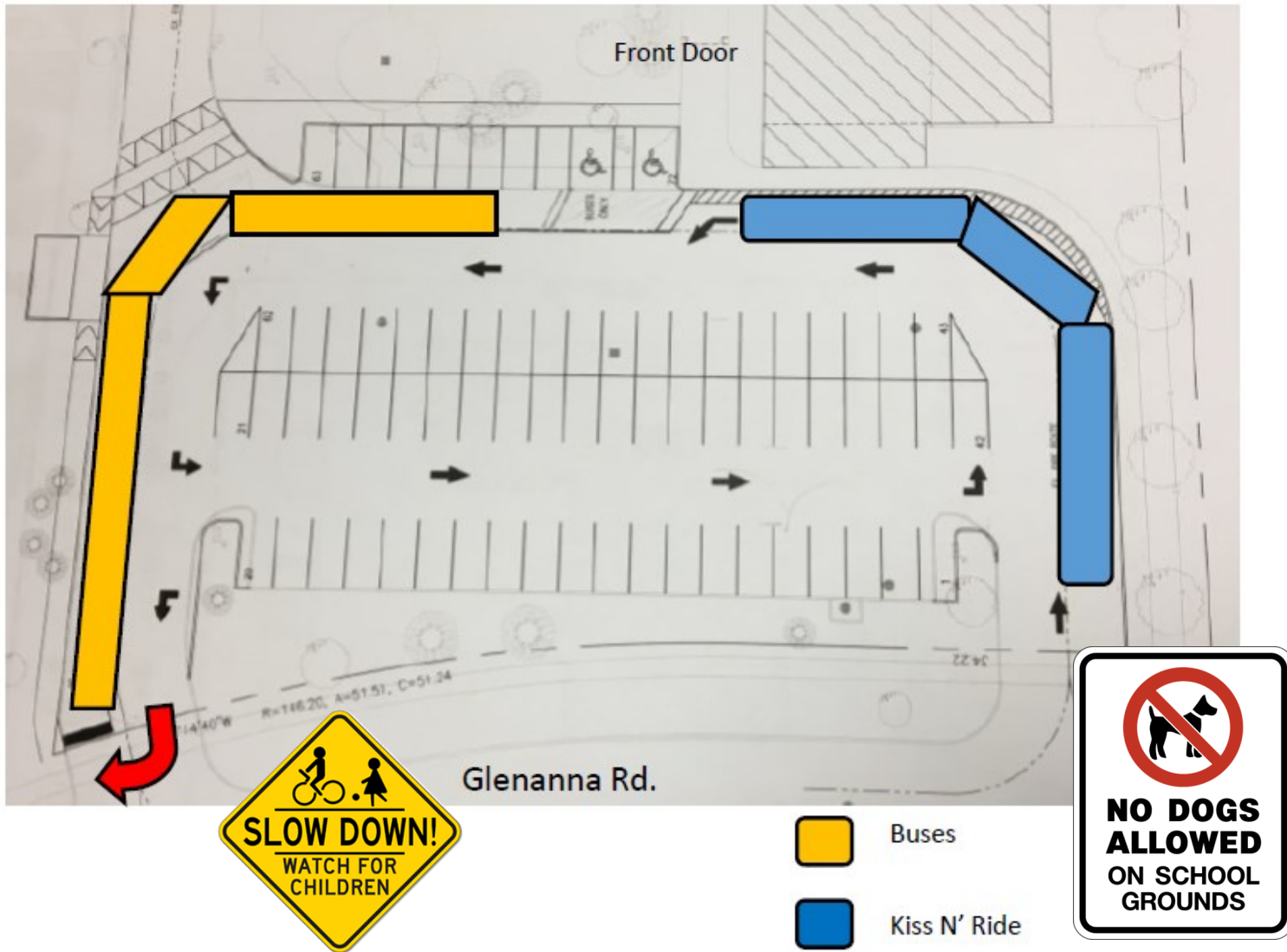
Just a quick safety note about the traffic through the school parking lot. You will find a map and details of where it is safe to drop off your kids in this newsletter. Please take a moment to review the map and remind yourself of the traffic flow, especially where our school buses load and unload. Also, a reminder that dogs are not allowed on DDSB school property.

This week you will have received several forms and information items that we categorize under the title, 'September Mailing'. Please read through all of the information and return the items that need to be either completed or signed. We hope you will follow us on Twitter as we 'Tweet' out what's going on here at school. Our Twitter handle is [@dunbar_ps](https://twitter.com/dunbar_ps).

Finally, one huge 'thank you' to the 2018-19 School Community Council members for their time and dedication. We truly value their input and support. Please consider joining our SCC; it is a great opportunity to be part of the school planning team. Our first meeting is set for Thursday, September 12 just after the Curriculum night. We'll be putting the new council and executive for the new year in place. Please join us!

We are looking forward to a fabulous year at William Dunbar PS. As always, if you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us. By working together, we create an effective team to support our kids!

Parking Lot Reminder



- ⇒ **Kiss and Ride is one lane wide. The second lane is for busses.**
- ⇒ **We do not recommend parking in our lot during Kiss and Ride times. However, if you need to, please use a designated spot. This allows buses and Kiss and Ride to flow smoothly.**
- ⇒ **When exiting onto Glenanna Rd, IT IS A RIGHT TURN ONLY during Kiss and Ride times. This improves flow of traffic and safety.**
- ⇒ **Please share this information with anyone dropping off or picking up your child(ren), for example grandparents or daycare.**

LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS NEEDED

We are in need of adult lunchroom supervisors who are available from 11:30am to 12:30pm Monday to Friday.

Supervisors are assigned to monitor classes while the students are eating their lunch. They also supervise students in the yard with the assistance of other staff members. This is a paid DDSB position.

Please drop by the Main Office and see Ms. Hawthorne if you are interested in pursuing this important responsibility.

William Dunbar Staff 2017-2018

Kindergarten Teams: Ms. Davis & Ms. Zung,
Ms. Frechette & Ms. Dunseith, Ms. Stanoev &
Ms. Farrell, Ms. Clark & Ms. Dunbar

Primary: Ms. Kehoe, Ms. Lloyd, Ms. Marcos,
Ms. Beletsky, Ms. Cummings, Ms. Lennon, Ms.
Lajos

Junior: Ms. Karch, Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Chapman,
Ms. Warren, Ms. Yee, Ms. Hudson, Ms.
Shearer, Ms. Feniak, Ms. Dwarka

Intermediate: Ms. Whiler, Ms. Roche, Ms.
Munderich, Ms. Stinson, Ms. Howe, Ms. Tsiris

Release Teachers: Mr. Ringrose, Mr. Dunccliffe,
Ms. Archer, Ms. Masson, Ms. Kobold, Ms.
Choudhry

Librarian: Ms. Wurster

Special Education Resource Teachers:
Ms. Currie, Ms. Kobold

Educational Assistants: Ms. Carmichael (in for
Ms. Barclay), Mr. Andrew, Ms. Harris

Custodians: Mr. Novakovic, Mr. Guida,
Mr. Hearn

Office Administrators: Ms. Noble, Ms. Pierce

Vice-Principal: Ms. Hawthorne

Principal: Ms. Foster

Dates to Remember

Sept. 11-13—Book fair

Sept. 12—Welcome Back BBQ 4:30-6:00 p.m.,
Classrooms open 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sept. 12—SCC Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Sept. 13—Photo day

Sept. 19—Gifted Testing Info Night 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 26—Grade fours to the Watershed
Festival

Sept. 27—Terry Fox Run 2:15 p.m.

Sept. 30—Orange Shirt Day

Oct. 11—PA Day

Oct. 14—Thanksgiving

Oct. 24—Volunteer of Distinction Ceremony at
DDSB Board Office



J. Markovski

Superintendent

905-666-6376

M. Bowman

Administrative Officer

905-666-6368

Trustees:

Chris Braney 905-509-2426 chris.braney@ddsb.ca

Paul Crawford 905-852-0575 paul.crawford@ddsb.ca

meet the teacher night

Please join us on Thursday September 12th for a
BACK TO SCHOOL PIZZA PARTY

Come out and join the community, visit the school and meet the William Dunbar Team!

4:30 – 6:00pm– Cheese and Pepperoni Pizza, along with drinks and chips available for purchase (ORDER THROUGH SCHOOL CASH ONLINE)

5:30– 6:30pm– Classes will be open

5:30—5:45pm—Intermediate students and their families are asked to gather in the gym to meet our intermediate team.

6:45—SCC Meeting



IT'S COMING!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at our school the week of September 9th to 13th in the library. Classes will have the chance to preview the book fair on Monday afternoon and Tuesday. The Book Fair will be open for business Wednesday, September 11th to Friday, September 13th from 8:45 am to 3:15 pm (closed during lunch). It will also be open on Thursday, September 12th from 4:00-4:45 & 5:30-7:00pm during the Meet the Teacher evening. Please note the Book Fair will be closed as of Friday at 2:05. Thank you for supporting your child's reading and our school library.



Fabulous First Days!





Digital Devices—Keeping our students safe and focused on learning.

Devices can be a valuable tool to augment learning, such as enabling research or the use of educational apps. However, they can also interfere with learning. Texting, engaging in social media and the taking of personal pictures or videos during class time is detrimental to a safe learning environment. The use of devices at recesses and lunch on school property is prohibited as there cannot be direct supervision to ensure appropriate use. This includes listening to music during these times. While we anticipate student compliance, here is the progressive response in the event of repeated issues:

First Offense: student receives a warning and they must take their phone and lock it in their locker (Please ensure your child has a Dudley lock that works.)

Second Offense: student brings phone to the office where it will be stored in the vault until the student leaves school property, either at lunch or the end of the day.

Third Offense: A guardian is contacted. The student brings phone to the office where it will be stored in the vault until the student leaves school property, either at lunch or the end of the day.

Anaphylaxis



Thanks for remembering
this is a



Peanut/Nut
Free School

NO NUTS PLEASE! Some allergies have the potential of being life threatening. As we have a number of students with life threatening allergies, we ask that all parents assist in our students' safety by reading the labels on all lunch products to ensure that they do not contain nuts or traces of nuts. Even trace elements could cause a severe life-threatening reaction. **Thank you to all community members for putting safety first!**

Also note that any nut alternative products, i.e., SoyaButter, WOWButter, are not permitted in the school. It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish these products from real peanut butter which makes it difficult for school staff to control for a "peanut safe"

environment. As alternatives, other peanut-free spreads that don't look, smell and taste like peanut butter can be used as part of a nutritious lunch (e.g. hummus, low fat ricotta cheese, vegetable purees, bean dips, guacamole).



Homemade Baked Treats: We request that students and parents/guardians DO NOT bring in any homemade baked goods for special occasions. If you wish your child to bring in an item to celebrate a special event, we will allow any store-purchased, pre-packaged food item, with the ingredient label(s) clearly visible, indicating that it is a peanut/nut-free item and does not contain ingredients that any classmates are allergic to. As an alternative, we encourage any students wishing to bring a celebratory item to share with his/her classmates, to consider non-food items, i.e., pencils, stickers, etc.



Scents and Latex

We also have members of our community with severe allergies to latex and scents. We ask that no latex products, such as balloons, are brought to school. William Dunbar is committed to being a scent sensitive community so please do not wear or send scented products to school. **THIS INCLUDES HAND SANITIZER PRODUCTS.** These products also violate Health and Safety guidelines for our board.

Administration of Medication at School

Any medications that need to be administered at school require a special form completed and signed by your family doctor. These forms, **Administration of Oral Medication** or an **Administration of Medication by injection**, are available from the office. The completed form, and the medication in the **original** labeled container, must be provided to the school. The parent/guardian is also responsible for providing any special instructions or training to staff before we can begin administration. Please note, all forms expire at the end of the school year and must be renewed each September.

School Community Council

2019-2020

Consider joining the SCC next school year! Elections will take place during the first SCC meeting of the year at 6:45pm on Thurs., Sept. 12, 2019.



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- provide informed advice to the Board on matters related to student achievement and Board accountability to parents
- provide informed advice to the school principal on matters related to student achievement and school accountability to parents
- maintain a school-wide perspective on issues
- participate in council meetings
- act as a link between the school community council and the community
- encourage the participation of parents from all groups and of other people within the school community.

ELIGIBILITY:

- A person is qualified to be a parent member (elected role) of a School Council if he or she is a parent of a pupil who is enrolled in the school
- A person is not qualified to be a parent member of a School Council if,
 - he or she is employed at the school; or
 - he or she is not employed at the school but is employed elsewhere by the Board that established the Council, unless he or she takes reasonable steps to inform people qualified to vote in the election of parent members of that employment

There are 14 parent member positions at William Dunbar, including 4 Officer Positions

OFFICER POSITIONS:

Chair Vice-Chair Treasurer Secretary

School
Council

Nomination
form on next
page



Make A Difference!

William Dunbar P.S. School Community Council



You can help your council discover new ways to support the education of students at William Dunbar P.S. Education is a partnership involving many stakeholders: parents, students, school and board staff, government and the community. Your involvement in our Council will strengthen and contribute to that partnership, helping to create a positive learning environment for our children. Be part of a dedicated team working to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system. Your participation can make a difference! We invite you to come out and get involved!

Please indicate below your interest.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Child(ren)'s Name(s) & Grade(s): _____

☐ I am interested in holding the following elected/voting position within the William Dunbar PS SCC:

_____ **Chair/Co-Chair**

Responsible for overall function of the council, including facilitating meetings, communication with the principal, council members and community, and leads council to develop annual plan of work.

_____ **Treasurer**

Responsible for accountability of SCC financial records & transactions in consultation with school admin team

_____ **Secretary**

Takes council notes during meetings and prepares minutes for distribution.

_____ **Fundraising Chair**

Facilitates fundraising initiatives and discussions.

_____ **Council Member**

Voting and active participant in the council. Attends meetings to ensure quorum is available for voting matters and is able to assist with council activities and programs.

☐ I am NOT interested in an elected/voting position, but would like to participate and help the SCC in select activities (check as many activities as you would like):



_____ I am interested in attending select SCC meetings.

(We meet monthly to listen and share ideas, issues and programs that affect the SCC, the school, the community and our children.)

_____ I am interested in participating and helping with various school and SCC programs

(Programs include event support, fund-raising, class volunteer, etc.)

_____ I am interested in participating/joining an SCC sub-committee related to a specific topic

(such as environment, fundraising, safe schools, wellness, etc).

_____ Other. I am interested in helping with the following specific activity or program:

_____ I don't want to commit to anything, but would like to find out more information about the SCC, including the programs and initiatives it supports and how I can help.

Thank You!



Good attendance patterns can become an important factor in a student's overall success at school.

Did you know?

- If your child is 20 minutes late every day, they will have missed 12 days of instruction by the end of the school year.
- If your child misses only two days per month of school, they will have missed one month of instruction by the end of the school year.
- Students who are absent 15 days of school each year will have lost one year of instruction by the end of grade 12.
- Students who attend school regularly tend to be more engaged in their learning, feel more connected to the school and tend to have better academic outcomes than students who miss a lot of school.

Families can support good attendance at school by:

- Setting a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Getting clothes, lunches and backpacks ready the night before.
- Communicating regularly with your child's teacher.
- Talking with your child about their school day.
- Taking part in school events and activities to show your child that you value school and education.
- Planning vacations and appointments around the school schedule whenever possible.
- Making sure your child goes to school, unless they are truly sick.



**Attendance
MATTERS**



Act early! Let the school know right away if there is a problem or concern. There are lots of ways we can work together to get attendance back on track or prevent an attendance problem from starting.

- 2019 is the International Year of Indigenous Languages
- 2015-2024 is the International Decade for People of African Descent
- **September 9** Ashura (Islam)
- **September 29** Navratri (Hinduism)
- **September 29** Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)



September 7- Ukrainian Heritage Day

The first official Ukrainian immigrants, Vasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypiw, arrived in Canada on September 7, 1891. Soon afterwards, Ukrainian immigrants began arriving in Ontario in larger numbers and today Ontario is home to more than 336,000 Ukrainian Canadians. There are over 1.2 million Canadians of Ukrainian descent across the country. Many Ukrainians fled their homeland to find freedom from oppression and a better life in Canada. Both Ontario and Canada, by way of the *Holodomor Memorial Day Act, 2009* and the *Ukrainian Famine and Genocide ("Holodomor") Memorial Day Act* (Canada), have recognized the genocide by famine that occurred in Ukraine from 1932 to 1933 under the Soviet Communist regime of Joseph Stalin. On August 24, 1991, the Ukrainian parliament declared Ukraine as an independent democratic state from the Soviet Union. Canada was the first nation in the Western world to recognize Ukraine's independence.

Ontarians of Ukrainian descent have left and continue to leave a historic mark on our province. Their contributions span communities across Ontario and are reflected in our economic, political, social and cultural life. Ukrainian Canadians have played an important role in the development of Ontario into one of the most desirable places in the world to live and have contributed to making Canada the great country that it is today. It is important to recognize and celebrate these contributions.

<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-39/session-2/bill-155>

September 8 - International Literacy Day (UN)

2019 Theme: Literacy and Multilingualism

International Literacy Day 2019 will focus on 'Literacy and Multilingualism.' Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist, distributed unevenly across countries and populations. Embracing linguistic diversity in education and literacy development is central to addressing these literacy challenges and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

On the occasion of International Literacy Day 2019, the main characteristics of multilingualism in today's globalized and digitalized world will be discussed, together with their implications for literacy in policies and practice in order to achieve greater inclusion in multilingual contexts.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/events/literacyday/>

September 21 - International Day of Peace (UN)

2019 Theme: "Climate Action for Peace"

The theme draws attention to the importance of combatting climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world.

Climate change causes clear threats to international peace and security. Natural disasters displace three times as many people as conflicts, forcing millions to leave their homes and seek safety elsewhere. The salinization of water and crops is endangering food security, and the impact on public health is escalating. The growing tensions over resources and mass movements of people are affecting every country on every continent.

On 23 September, the United Nations is convening a Climate Action Summit with concrete and realistic plans to accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement. The Summit will focus on the heart of the problem – the sectors that create the most emissions and the areas where building resilience could make the biggest difference – as well as provide leaders and partners the opportunity to demonstrate real climate action and showcase their ambition.

In the lead up to the International Day of Peace on 21 September, the United Nations calls upon all to take action to tackle climate change. Every human is part of the solution - from turning off the lights to taking public transport, to organizing an awareness raising campaign in your community. Share your ideas and activities with us through #PeaceDay and #ClimateAction.

September 25 - Franco-Ontarian Day (Ontario)

Effective April 26, 2010, the Franco-Ontarian Day Act adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario proclaims September 25 of each year as Franco-Ontarian Day. This Day will, every year, officially recognize the contribution of Ontario's Francophone community to the cultural, historical, social, economic and political life of the province. September 25 will commemorate the anniversary of the first raising of the Franco-Ontarian Flag in 1975.



September 23-27 - Ally Week

Ally Week is a national [youth-led](#) effort encouraging students to be allies with the LGBT ([lesbian](#), [gay](#), [bisexual](#) and [transgender](#)) members of their community in standing against [bullying](#), [harassment](#) and name-calling. It takes place in [K-12 schools](#) and colleges. It was created by Joe Montana and other youth members of the Gay Lesbian & Straight Education Network [GLSEN](#) National JumpStart Student Leadership Team. It is done in the same spirit as [Day of Silence](#) to educate on anti-LGBT+ harassment issues.

The goal of Ally Week is to diminish stereotypes and exclusion while highlighting that peer support for LGBT+ students is stronger than the students themselves may have thought existed. In a survey of 240 undergraduates regarding what peer support they felt LGBT+ students had, research found that their personal attitudes were significantly more positive than they thought their friends and fellow students held. Allies are identified as supporters but not necessarily members of a marginalized group.

During Ally Week people are encouraged to sign an ally pledge "taking a stand for a safe and harassment-free school for all students", and that they will not use anti-LGBT+ language and slurs, they will intervene if possible to stop bullying and harassment and support safer schools efforts.

The word Ally is a verb as well as a noun. Action is a very important part of being an Ally, and the way in which support is shown for various members of the LGBT community can differ. It is important to seek information and have conversations to support your work.

September 23 also marks Bi-visibility Day.

Source: <https://www.glsen.org/allyweek>

Lessons: <https://www.glsen.org/educate/resources/lesson-plans>

Also, for more information on **starting a GSA in your school**, please contact the Equity Department and/or see: <https://egale.ca/portfolio/mygsa/>

September 30 – Orange Shirt Day (First Nations Canada)

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Ghislain Picard is encouraging people across the country to mark Orange Shirt Day each year on September 30, as a day to recognize the experience of former students of Indian Residential Schools and affirm a collective commitment to ensure that every child matters. Orange Shirt Day is an outcome of the St. Joseph Mission Residential School Commemoration

Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, BC in May 2013. It stems from a story told by former residential school student, Phyllis Webstad, who had her new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, taken from her as a six-year old girl. She spoke powerfully of how it seemed to her that nobody cared and, in this personal way, it speaks to the many harms experienced by children in the residential schools. The AFN asks all Canadians to join First Nations in wearing an orange shirt on September 30th in the spirit of healing and reconciliation.

Source: <http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
21 SEPTEMBER 2019

un.org/peaceday | [#peaceday](https://twitter.com/peaceday) [#climateaction](https://twitter.com/climateaction)

An inverted triangle with horizontal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, resembling a rainbow flag.

Positive Space

This is a SAFE SPACE where human rights are respected and where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender students, teachers, friends, families, and allies are welcome and supported.

CUPE Local 218
Durham District School Board
ETFO Durham Teachers' Local
OSSTF District 13

