

A.G. Bell News—September 2019

Danielle Denike, Principal Craig Bonikowsky, Vice Principal

Cheryl Dawson, Administrative Assistant

Kim Fullerton, Administrative Assistant

Another Year is upon us.....

Hello everyone, and welcome back to another great year at A.G. Bell P.S. We are very excited to see many new faces, and we welcome all of our new families to this amazing community. We also extend a very warm welcome back to all of our returning families.

As we continue to grow, communication is of extreme importance and we encourage parents to visit our website at: <https://agbell.ddsb.ca/en/index.aspx> or on Twitter at: @AGBellPS. Also if you are not already part of the email list where you receive weekly updates and information items, please email me with an updated email address and we will be sure to add you to our system to keep you informed.

The year is already off to an amazingly busy start with our SCC "Tea and Tissues" event to invite new and returning parents and guardians to our school on Sept. 4th right at the entry bell. This newsletter will have these important school start up pieces attached. In the meantime if you have not already done so, here is a list of important things for parents to do asap:

- Visit the **DDSB Parent Portal** and update your **VERIFICATION FORM** (an email was sent to the parent listed as parent 1, primary contact, with information)
- Drop off your child's Epi-pen or other medications at the office
- Register for safe arrival (reporting of student absences and lates) at **School Messenger**; (an email from the DDSB was sent to the parent listed as parent 1, primary contact, with information)
- Register at ddsb.schoolcashonline.ca for access to online payments for pizza days, field trips, special events and classroom activities
- Confirm bus transportation information verification by calling Durham Student Transportation System at **905-666-6979** or visit www.dsts.ca. You need your child's OEN number for verification

A.G. Bell P.S. News 2019/2020

Parent Name _____ Student: _____

In order to reduce the amount of paper we use, we are asking for each family to choose the format they require for receiving the newsletters below:

- ☐ I will read the newsletter electronically on the website or through School Messenger
- ☐ I would like a paper copy sent home with my youngest or only child:

Homeroom teacher _____

* If you have not already been receiving our updates or emails over the past few months and are interested in receiving an electronic copy, please provide your email address:

School Cash Online is the preferred method of payment for all Roland Michener excursions and events.

CREDIT CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE as a payment option through School Cash Online.

Email reminders are sent out for all programs offered to your child once you register with School Cash.



NOTE: If you require assistance, select the **SUPPORT** option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

Step 1: Register

If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://DDSB.schoolcashionline.com/> and select the **"Get Started Today"** option.

Complete each of the three Registration Steps

***For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.**

Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account.

The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



Step 3: Find Student

Note: OEN Student Number is Required

This step will connect your children to your account.

Enter the School Board Name

Select the School Name

Enter Your Child's OEN Number and Last Name

Select **Continue**

On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select **Continue**

Your child has been added to your account

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select **"Add Another Student"** option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select

"View Items for Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

Stay connected! Be sure to select the option to receive email notifications when new items become available.

☒ I want to receive email notifications for new fees assigned to my student and updates on school-related activities.

Email reminders are sent out for all programs offered to your child once you register with School Cash.



There are some new staff faces we need to welcome:

Katelynne Lo Presti—Room 212, Grade 8
Christopher Henwood—Room 216, Grade 7/8 with Phys. Ed
Randel D'Souza—Room 217, Grade 8 with Gifted
Dolle Walia—Room 145, FDK
Miryam Montoro—Educational Assistant

We are excited to have their professionalism and enthusiasm at AG Bell.

POWERFUL QUESTIONS FOR STUDENT LEARNING at AGB

What are you learning?

How do you show your work?

How do you improve your work?

Where do you see examples to improve your work?



First Week of School Reminders:

- Agendas: we ask for a \$5.00 donation for homerooms who are using agendas.
- Families of students who ride a bus to school should check the [Durham Student Transportation Services website \(www.dsts.ca\)](http://www.dsts.ca) for specific information regarding route number, pick up time and drop off time. Your child's OEN number will be required to obtain this information.
- Families of children who live within walking distance are encouraged to walk or bike to school. Walking to school is an important part of a healthy, active lifestyle. This is a good time to remind your child of community safety and how to be aware and safe when walking or riding on busy streets.
- Bikes need to be locked up on the bike racks at the front of the school. This mode of transportation are to be used to get to school and dismounted upon arrival. Bikes are not to be ridden on school property.
- Skateboards are not permitted on school property

Attendance Matters!

If your child is going to be absent, notify the school by:

1

Safe arrival
portal login
attendance.ddsb.ca

2

Parent toll
free number
1-844-350-2646

3

Smartphone
application
[safearrival](#)

4

Questions?
*Call the
school directly*

Make every day count!

Send me to school if:

I have a runny nose
or a little cough, but
no other symptoms.
I haven't needed to
take medication for
a fever in the last
24 hours.
I haven't thrown up
or had diarrhea in
the last 24 hours.

Keep me home if:

I have a fever higher
than 37.5° C.
I'm throwing up or
have diarrhea.
My eyes are pink
and crusty.
I have a cough that
keeps me awake.
I have a sore throat.
I have an infection/
disease that can
be spread to my
teachers and friends.

Call a doctor if:

I've had a fever
higher than 37.5° C
for longer than
2 days.
I've had a runny
nose for more than
a week and it is not
getting better.
I still have asthma
symptoms after
using my regular
asthma medication.



To talk to a public health nurse, call Durham Health Connection Line at
[1-800-841-2729](tel:1-800-841-2729) or [905-666-6241](tel:905-666-6241)

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1 hr. 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

New Student Registration

Families of students who are new to our school can begin the registration process by completing the online registration [here](#). Following your online registration, please visit the office with documents to complete the registration process. A checklist of the required documents is [here](#).



Attendance

Regular and prompt attendance at school sets your child up for success. It is very important that students are at school for the 8:05 am bell. When students are late they miss important information and learning, and disrupt their classes. Students who are regularly late or absent will receive letters and possible referral to an attendance counselor. We want all our students to be successful and regular attendance is an important part of being successful at school and in life.

Thank you for helping to ensure your children come to school on time! If you need support please contact the office.

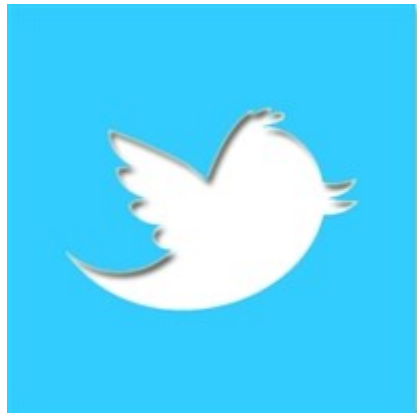


Meet the Teacher

Thursday, Sept 26th will be meet the teacher night. Stay tuned for further details about our dinner for the community. After dinner we welcome our families into the classrooms to meet your student's teacher. Come out for a great family event. We hope to see all our families that night.



Mrs. Denike is no longer able to use the Remind App as part of our school communication. We will continue to use Twitter, and School Messenger.



Follow Us On
twitter
@AGBeIPS

OUR CHARACTER TRAITS

September- **Optimism**

October – **Teamwork**

November- **Empathy**

December- **Integrity**

January- **Responsibility**

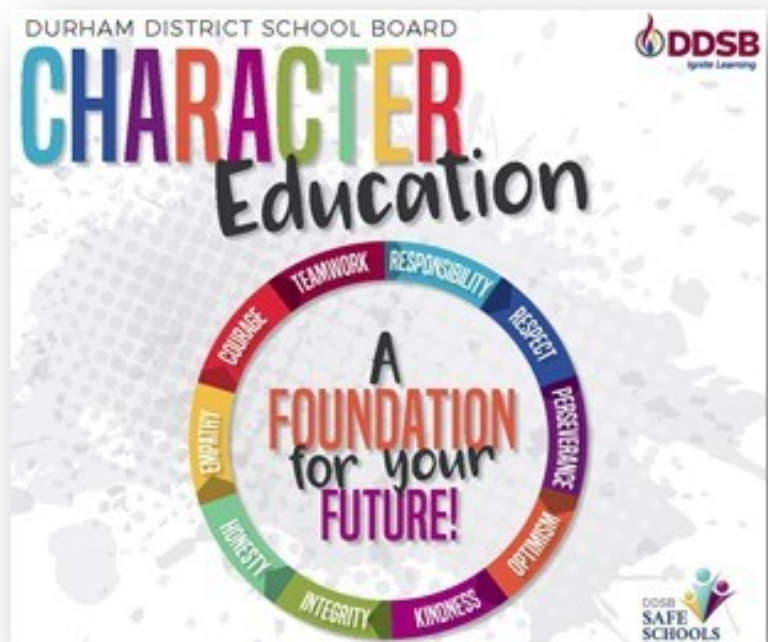
February- **Kindness**

March- **Respect**

April- **Honesty**

May – **Perseverance**

June- **Courage**



Important Dates

Sept. 3rd- First day of classes (regular dismissal time of 2:30 pm)
Sept. 16-20—Safety Week
Sept. 23-27—DDSB Ally Week
Sept. 26th– Picture Day and Meet the Teacher Night
Sept. 30th- Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 1st 7:00- First SCC Meeting

Dates of Significance

September 29– October 1st Rosh Hashanah*

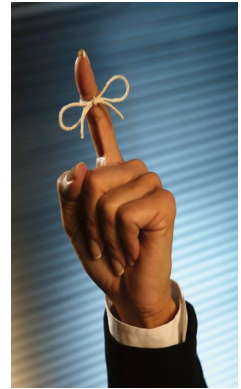
Many Jewish Canadians celebrate Rosh Hashana (or Rosh Hashanah), which is also known as the Jewish New Year. Rosh Hashana starts on the first day of Tishrei (or Tishri), which is the seventh month in the Jewish calendar, and may last for two days. It is sometimes called the Day of Remembrance or the Day of Blowing the Shofar. Many Jewish Canadians observe Rosh Hashanah, known as the New Year in the Jewish calendar, for two days, while others celebrate the event for one day. It is a time of family gatherings and special meals. Rosh Hashana commences at nightfall the day before the actual holiday. The celebrations begin after the evening prayer, when family and friends join in to reflect on the past and make a fresh start for the New Year. It is a time to look ahead with hope. Many Jewish people in Canada seek forgiveness from friends and family prior to this event. Rosh Hashana (or Rosh Hashanah) greeting cards are also sent at this time of the year. Another activity that occurs during Rosh Hashana is performing the *tashlikh*, which involves reciting prayers near naturally flowing water and “throwing sins away” (for example, in the form of bread pieces). The shofar is also blown like a trumpet in the synagogue during this time of the year. Some people of Jewish faith may take the day off work or organize time off during this time.

September 7th Ukrainian Heritage Day

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.

September 25th Franco-Ontarian Day

Franco-Ontarian Day, a time to celebrate your community and its history. It was officially named Franco-Ontarian Day in 2010. The Franco-Ontario flag flew for the first time on September 25, 1975 at the University of Sudbury.



Trustees: Patrice Barnes (289)-892-6685 or patrice.barnes@ddsb.ca

Superintendent of Education / Mohamed Hamid (905) 666-5500

Alexander Graham Bell P.S.

25 Harkins Drive

Ajax, Ontario L1T 3T6 (905) 683-7368

SCHOOL WEBSITE

<http://www.ddsb.ca/school/agbell>

Twitter: @AGBellPS

STAFF LIST AND ROOM NUMBERS

Name	Grade	Room
ALEXANDER, Michelle	4G	263
AUKSTAKLANIS, Samantha	7	147
ADAMS, Mike	SSP	261
APPLETON, Alanna	Library/ Coverage	208
BONIKOWSKY, Craig	Vice Principal	Office
CARROLL, Diana	7G	218
CECILE, Lisa	1	150
CHAMBERS, Janice	ECE	141
CUFF, Katie	6	205
D'SOUZA, Randel	8G	217
DALEY, Karen	4/5	163
DAWSON, Cheryl	Admin. Assistant	Office
DENIKE, Danielle	Principal	Office
DONNELLY, Scott	SERT	209
FALLIS, Megan	5/6G	264
FLEMING, Robin	4/5G	262
FRIM, Amanda	EA	
FULLERTON, Kim	Admin. Assistant	Office
FUSCO, Dan	Custodian	113
HENWOOD, Christopher	7/8 & PE	216
HOLLINGSWORTH, David	SERT/ Coverage	209
LO PRESTI, Katelynne	8	212
MONTRO, Miryam	EA	
MORO, Jacquie	6	204
PASIEKA, Leslie	EA	
PIERCE, Terry	Custodian	113
ROBINS, Erin	3/4	164
ROY, Lynn	French/ Coverage	228
SAUNDERS, Johanna	French/ Coverage	228
SCYTHES, Darryl	Coverage	228
SELLS, Caitlin	7/8G	210
SERT Commons		209
SHIRALI, Seema	6G	203
SIEWIERSKI, Mariam	ECE	145
STONE, Selina	2/3	152
VISSER, April	FDK	145
WILKINS, Sarah	3	162
WALIA, Dolle	FDK	141

Medical Procedures—Epipens and Asthma Inhalers



Keeping our children safe at school is our a top priority.

Please inform your child's teacher of any serious medical conditions your child may have as soon possible. If your child requires medication while at school, please be aware medication can only be administered when a *Request for Administration of Medication form is completed and signed by both the doctor and parents. This form is available from the school office. Medical forms and medication should*

be returned to the office as soon as possible.

EPIPENS

If your child requires an epipen, please bring an epipen to the school to be stored in the office, along with a *Request for Administration of Medication form for your child. Please speak to your child's teacher about other locations for your child's epipen, (e.g. backpack) if applicable.*

ASTHMA

If your child has asthma, please be sure to inform your child's teacher and provide details on the student registration form. It is important for staff to be informed of asthma triggers and information about any medications which your child takes for asthma. Please inform your child's teacher and the office if your child has an inhaler and where it is kept, for emergency situations. Please take a moment to complete the following [Asthma Plan](#).

Allergy Aware—Nuts, Peanuts, Scents

Parents are encouraged to support the learning of their child by ensuring that their child's lunch and snacks are both healthy and nutritionally balanced. Snacks will be eaten in both the morning and afternoon, inside of the classroom for safety reasons. As a reminder, we ask you **not to send food which contains peanuts, nuts, or possible traces of nuts.**

We ask that families refrain from sending products such as "WOW Butter" to school. These products look, smell and taste like peanut butter, making it difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish these products from a real peanut butter. As a result, it makes it difficult 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. (eg. hummus, low fat ricotta cheese, vegetable purees, bean dips, guacamole). We appreciate the understanding of all of our families in collectively maintaining a safe environment.

We are also a **scent-sensitive school** and request that all members of the community refrain from wearing strongly scented products.

***Please note as we learn of other allergy students needs, this is not an extensive list. This is a school-wide need not isolated to one class. Thank you for keeping all students safe.

Safe Arrival

Please be sure to use the app, go online or call the 844 number to report your child's absence. You may send a note to inform the classroom teacher, however as a parent you must still inform the system to avoid the absence notifications from Safe Arrival.

To report your child's absence via telephone, please call:
1-844-350-2646

To report your child's absence online *or* via the app:

Parents/guardians who wish to report absences
online or through the App
will have to create a new account with



This software is not the same Safe Arrival software used in previous years. Parent/guardian user accounts **cannot be transferred to the new system. Please follow the steps below to set up a new account.**



A GENTLE REMINDER—NO HATS OR HOODIES

We kindly ask our AG Bell students to please remove hats, do-rags, bandanas, and hoodies when they enter the building, and they remain off when inside the building. We appreciate your support in setting a respectful, positive school environment.

Kiss N Ride Safety

There is nothing more important than the safety of our students. Last year, we experienced many challenges each day during the morning drop off as a result of the volume of families who were dropping off their children in the morning.

If you drive your child to and from school, please remember to follow our Kiss n Ride procedures. Please do not drop your child(ren) off before 7:50 am as there are no staff on duty to supervise.

When dropping your child off, please remember to remain in a single lane order. When picking up your child please loop through the Kiss n Ride until your child is present. You cannot stop and wait or park in the Kiss n Ride lanes as it halts the whole Kiss n Ride system and causes traffic blocks.

If parking and dropping off or picking up your child please use the crosswalk through the parking lot or sidewalks. Children are not to be crossing Harkins Drive on their own or jay walking as it is very dangerous with the number of cars that go along Harkins Drive.



GRADE 7 & 8 CHROMEBOOK UPDATES

Beginning this year, a new process is being implemented to address all Chromebook damage in a consistent manner.

When a Chromebook is reported as damaged or not working, the following applies:

1. If a device has no sign of physical damage, an IT Incident will be submitted by the school to have the device exchanged as a warranty item. There is no charge for warranty repairs.
2. If physical damage was willful or accidental, a minimum \$50 fee will be issued to families in alignment with this year's Parent Chromebook waiver.
3. Principals will choose one of two versions of generic invoices to provide to families upon report of damage:
 - a. \$50 assessment and service invoice for physical damage;
 - b. \$323 assessment, service, and repair fee for willful physical damage.

If you have any questions please contact the office.