

September 2022

South Branch



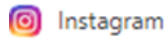
TIGERS!

Principal
Tanya Preston
Tanya.preston@ucdsb.on.ca

Vice-Principal
Tracey Haley
tracey.haley@ucdsb.on.ca



South Branch ELEMENTARY-UCDSB




Southbranch_ucdsb

Principal's Message

Welcome back Tigers! We are so happy to welcome back returning and new students and staff to our Tiger Family. This year we are approximately 380 students. We now offer both K-6 Core and French Immersion Programs.

Stay Informed:


 Please ensure you are connected through My Family Room, and follow us on Facebook or Instagram: **South Branch Elementary-UCDSB Facebook; Southbranch_ucdsb.**



Questions or Concerns:

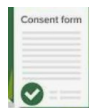
Throughout the year you may have questions related to your child.

Please reach out to your homeroom teacher for questions specifically related to your children or their classroom. Questions regarding the school can be emailed directly to tanya.preston@ucdsb.on.ca or tracey.haley@ucdsb.on.ca.

 **Please refrain from asking questions on social media. Threads/Comments are not monitored. Information relayed on other Facebook sites may be inaccurate. Our staff want to be the first point of contact if you have a question or concern.**

On-Going Excursion Permission:

Please ensure you approve the On-Going Excur-



sion permission form being sent through My Family Room. This permission allows our school to take advantage of outdoor learning through exploring the Campus Trails, Riverside Park and NGDHS.

We are hoping to begin our **HOT LUNCH** Lunch program in October and will be looking to secure volunteers to run this program. Please let us know if you are interested in helping and ensure you have a completed volunteer check on file.

Vulnerable Sector Check: NEW ONLINE –please visit <https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=147&lng=en> to complete your VSC so that you are able to be a volunteer.



If you have any questions regarding the school, please email your child's teacher or the school. We do not monitor Facebook for messages.



We model and maintain a positive Facebook presence. A safe school is one where students, staff and families feel safe.



Yard Safety—Supervision begins at 9:15a.m

End of Day Pick Ups 3:40 (Park at NGDHS)

Please call the office by 2 p.m. so your child's name can be added to the pick-up list. This limits class disruptions and end of day chaos.

Daily Schedule

9:25-11:55 Instructional Block & snack

11:55-12:35 BREAK

11:55-12:05 Eat (Gr.3/4-6) (K-2/3) RECESS
12:05-12:35 Recess (3/4-6) (K-2/3) EAT

12:35-1:55 Instructional Block

1:55-2:35 BREAK

1:55-2:05 Eat (Gr.3/4-6) (K-2/3) RECESS
12:05-2:05-2:35 Recess (3/4-6) (K-2/3) EAT

2:35-3:40 Instructional Block

3:40 Bus Dismissal

3:45 Pick Up /Walkers

EMERGENCY: Verification forms have been sent home for your review to ensure we have accurate contact information. Please update any changes through MFR. **Please sign and return the verification form to indicate that you have updated the information on MFR.** It is imperative that we have updated contact phone numbers and cell numbers in the event of an emergency. Please remember to update your contact numbers throughout the year if cell phone numbers change. All verification forms must be signed and returned.



STUDENT WELLNESS AND COVID UPDATE (Aug.31, 2022)

As you may be aware, the Ontario Chief Medical Officers of Health (CMOH) has recently provided [updated COVID-19 guidance](#) and has updated [the COVID-19 School Screener to include new symptoms and next steps](#). The latest screener is dated August 31, 2022.

Stay home when sick – If your child has any new or worsening symptoms of any illness they should stay home until they don't have a fever, their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours for nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea) and they aren't developing new symptoms. This includes if they test positive for COVID-19. There are no longer any standard isolation periods.

If you are unsure if your child should stay home, [follow the guidance in the updated COVID-19 School Screener](#). Please ensure that you are using the version of the screener that was updated on August 31, 2022.

Take additional precautions – For 10 days following the onset of COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test (including if the person is asymptomatic) individuals should:

- ✦ Wear a mask in all public settings (including school and child care).
- ✦ Avoid non-essential activities where mask removal is necessary (for example, playing a wind instrument in music class or removing a mask for sports, dining out).

Household contacts of individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive COVID-19 test are also recommended to take the same precautions.

Please know that we will rely on our families and older students to follow this guidance and know when they will need to wear a mask at school. School staff will not be able to track individual masking timelines.

Our schools will continue to do what we can to provide physically healthy environments for students by promoting hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, having hand sanitizer at different locations within our schools and continuing with enhanced cleaning protocols.

If you have questions about your family and COVID-19, please contact your public health unit directly for advice.

[Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit](#) – Is advising families to complete the COVID-19 school screening and follow the next steps and/or call the provincial testing and isolation information line at 1-888-777-0730.

ELECTRONICS & CELL PHONES

If your child brings a device to school, it is imperative your child understand that video recording other students on the bus, school yard, bathrooms or at school is not permitted to protect the privacy of other students. We ask for your assistance in reinforcing this message.



Students who wish to call or text home during the day may do so during break times at the office. This helps ensure we are aware of any problems or changes that arise during the day.

Cell phones, watches and all recording devices must remain locked in lockers at arrival and used with teacher direction. Thank you

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Children with life threatening or other medical concerns require an updated Plan of Care. Please ensure you have connected with the office to complete a plan with our admin team. Any child requiring medication to be administered at school requires a signed Authorization form. All medication must be stored in our lock cabinet at school and should not travel to and from school with our students.



South Branch STAFF 2022-2023

	Core	French Immersion
Kindergarten	Mrs. Ross/ Ms. Rothwell	Madame Howison Mrs. Dawson/Harrington Madame King/Trayner
Grade 1, 1/2	Mrs. Price (1) Ms. Bryan (1/2)	Madame Smith/ Mrs. McCool (1, 1/2)
Grade 2	Mrs. Mellaney (2/3)	Niska/Morrow (2, 3)
Grade 3/4	Ms. Paterson	Madame Berry/ Mrs. Adamson
Grade 4	Ms. McCracken	
Grade 5	Mr. Stone Mrs. Kehler (5/6)	Madame Peters / Mrs. Kehler (5/6)
Grade 6	Mrs. Schaafsma Mrs. Kay	
Special Education	Mrs. Matheson Mrs. Adamson Ms. Haley	
Prep	Mrs. Nolan Mrs. O'Connor	Madame Peters Madame Gagne Madame Harvey Madame Berry
Support Staff	Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Malette, Mrs. Demik	
Custodian	Ms. Colterman, Ms. Barkley, Mr. Langdon	
Office Admin.	Mrs. Somerville & Mrs. Barkley	
Admin Team	Mrs. Preston & Ms Haley	



Reporting a Child Absence

In accordance with our Safe School Policy, all absences must be reported to the school. When a child is absent from school and we cannot reach a guardian through the numbers provided, we must notify our local OPP to investigate.

To avoid this please ensure you report any absences by either method:

- Download MFR APP
- Phone the school and leave a message any time prior to 9:20 a.m. that morning.

*To ensure consistency, please avoid emailing absences to your child's teacher.

Lunches and Snacks



Students are encouraged to bring a lunch every day, 2 healthy snacks and a filled water bottle. We are a Nut Aware school so please look for the symbol to keep our school safe. Remember, we ask you to **refrain from sending peanut butter simulated alternatives** as it closely resembles the real product and makes it difficult for staff to discriminate between the products.



UCDSB Board Improvement and Equity Plan

90% of students will read, write, and demonstrate number sense & operations at grade level

100% of students will report that school is safe and inclusive, and positively influences their mental health, wellness and sense of belonging.

90% of students will graduate within 5 Years

The UCDSB and South Branch are aligned to develop learners while ensuring our students feel safe, included and accepted at school each day. The staff focus for September will be getting to know the students in our classes and how they learn. We will also be exploring some strategies students can use to help them remain calm, confident and engaged with learning e.g. 4 Finger Affirmation



Schools are required to establish Safe and Accepting Schools Team and set a date for the first meeting. The Safe and Accepting Schools Team must meet at least once in each term. The Team must consist of at least the following - one student, one parent, one teacher, one non-teaching staff member, one community partner, and the principal/vice principal).

Our Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan is updated annually and posted on our South Branch Website.

Our first meeting will be in October prior to our monthly Parent Council Meeting. A separate Teams links will be sent to invite you to attend both meetings.

STUDENT DROP-OFF AREA: A reminder that our drop off traffic flow is in effect during the morning. Please follow the arrows around the DROP area and then continue to proceed to exit. Please wait until you reach the DROP area to release your child from the vehicle. **Please do not pass other cars in the lane.** Please do not park your vehicle during drop off time. We are all working to create safe arrival and pick up routines. Thank you for keeping our school yard safe!



Electronic Communications

At South Branch, we rely on My Family Room distribution lists to send you current information as it becomes available.

Permission forms, Board, school and classroom updates will all be sent out this way. Please make sure that your email address is correct in MFR. Check your MFR settings on your computer to ensure all notifications are CHECKED if you are not receiving emails.

Download the app to enter your child's planned or daily absences right from the app.



Staff are preparing for a fun day of learning for students in Grades 1-6 at the International Plowing Match. We will be attending the event on Thursday, September 22. Each classroom will be reaching out for parent volunteers to help ensure small group safety, since we are traveling to this large venue. Please ensure you have an updated Vulnerable Sector Check or reach out to the office so we can help you get one (link on page 1). This event is coming quickly.

We encourage any of our kindergarten parents who wish to enjoy this day to consider taking your child to the event.

Please watch MFR for more information and the permission form that will be required in order for your child to attend.





Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I hope that you have had a summer filled with family, friends and fun. As many of you know, my name is Mrs. O'Connor and I teach music for most classes from kindergarten to grade 6 at South Branch. There are a few music classes that are taught by other staff members. I teach each class once a week for a 40-minute period. Your child will have music on either Day 2, 3 or 4 in our 5-day schedule. Like other subjects, the music curriculum builds on the skills and knowledge learned in previous years. As children advance through the grades, they will have numerous opportunities to expand upon their understanding of music theory, they will listen and respond to music, sing, dance, play instruments and create music of their own. Celebrating the arts is very important to us at South Branch. We hope to return to some showcase opportunities where our students share their talents in visual arts, drama, dance and LOTS of music! More information will come as the year progresses about any concert dates. We love to show our families what we have been working on at these special events.

Below you will find the day of the week that your child will have music class with me:

DAY 2

Grade 6 – Mrs. Kay
Grade 2/3 – Mrs. Mellaney
Grade 2 FI – Mrs. Morrow/Mme. Niska
Grade 5/6 – Mrs. Kehler/ Mme. Peters
Grade 1/2 – Mrs. Bryan
Grade 3/4 – Mrs. Adamson/Mme. Berry

DAY 3

Grade 4 – Ms. McCracken
Grade 5 – Mr. Stone
Grade 3/4 – Ms. Paterson
Grade 3 – Mrs. Morrow/Mme. Niska
Grade 1/2 – Mrs. McCool/Mme. Smith
Grade JK/SK FI – Mrs. Dawson/Mrs. Harrington
(afternoon group)

DAY 4

Grade 1 – Mrs. Price
Grade 6 – Mrs. Schaafsma
Grade 1 FI – Mrs. McCool/Mme. Smith

With only one music class per week, it is essential that we maximize the learning time that the students and I have together. For this reason, we have put rules in place to help ensure that our time is productive and enjoyable for everyone. The rules are as follows:

Make good choices

Use kind words

Show respect for classmates, teachers and the music

Involve yourself in ALL music activities to the best of your ability

Care for our room, the instruments and all our equipment

It is my expectation that ALL students will follow these rules. We are incredibly fortunate to have extensive music resources that include many delicate and expensive instruments. For the benefit of all students, it is vital that these items are used properly and with care.

I look forward to a great year ahead. Please feel free to call the school if you have any questions or concerns about the music program and/or your child's progress. I appreciate your support.

Sincerely Mrs. J. O'Connor

September 2022



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2	3
4	5 Holiday	6 Welcome Back to School! 	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15 Open House 4:30-5:30 	16 School Council Nominations Due to school office 4p.m.	17	
18	19	20 School Council Elections 6:00 p.m. 	21	22 International Ploughing Match Field Trip Gr1-6 	23 Terry Fox Run 	24	
25	26 Journee des Fran- co-Ontariens: Wear Green & White	27	28	29	30 		