



September Newsletter

Principal: Ms. T. Staples

Vice-Principal: Mr. A. Pratt



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Website...djschoular.ucdsb.on.ca

Facebook...<https://www.facebook.com/DuncanJSchoularPublicSchool>

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September Message:

We are so excited to be back in school. We would like to welcome back families and welcome our new families. Our enrolment has increased. If you have not heard, we now have a portable. Thank you to our families for all of their support in the transition back to school. The students are adjusting well to the physical distancing routines, hand washing/sanitizing routines and the wearing of masks.

Our custodial team of Mr. Hare, Mr. Coughlin and Ms. Leach worked hard all summer to prepare the building for opening and continue to clean and sanitize the school throughout the school day. Our staff have worked hard to prepare their classrooms to welcome students. The school looks great! Thank you to Mrs. McGrath, Office Administrator and Mrs. Jackson, Office Assistant for all that they are doing to support students, staff and families.

We would like to welcome Mme McCann (Core French Teacher), Ms. Alexander (FI Kinder English & Prep), and Ms. Birnie (FI Grade 5/6/7 English). We would like to welcome back Mrs. Brunet (Grade 4/5), Mr. Haynes (Grade 6/7).

Welcome to Educational Assistants: Ms. Clarey and Student Monitor, Mrs. Cook. Welcome back Mrs. Duncan, RECE.

Our first School Council Meeting is Thursday, October 7th at 6:00-7:00 p.m. via Teams (virtual meeting).

We are looking forward to a successful 2021-22 school year!

Ms. Staples

Mr. Pratt

Principal

Vice-Principal

2021-22 School Schedule

9:10-9:20 a.m. Arrival of students

9:20 a.m. Instructional Day Begins

Staggered Lunches/Recesses 11:30-1:10 p.m.

Staggered Nutrition Breaks/Recesses 1:30-3:10

3:40—Dismissal

Duncan J. Schoular Families

If your child is absent, please contact the school prior to 9:20 a.m. (This includes walkers on snow days.)

Phone: 613-283-1367

Text: 613-206-1443

Register through My Family Room and input electronically

<https://myfamilyroom.ca/Account/Login>



DISMISSAL AT THE END OF THE DAY

The end of the day dismissal can be busy and student safety is a priority.

Our dismissal procedures are working well and we greatly appreciate our parent(s)/guardian(s) patience and support.

Buses load first, then students who are being picked up in the **pick up/drop off** zone proceed to meet staff members and wait for their pick up.

Walkers are dismissed at the bell at 3:40 p.m. and proceed to either the Thurber St. Gate or McKenzie Avenue Gate to walk home or meet parent(s)/guardian(s).

Students who ride **bicycles** to school are dismissed at the 3:40 bell and proceed to the bike rack. They wait until the buses pull out and then walk their bike off the school property.

ALL EARLY PICKUPS (PRIOR TO 3:40 p.m.) Please call the office at 613-283-1367 PRIOR TO 2:00 p.m. to arrange for early pick up. If the pick up is prior to 3:00 p.m., the parent/guardian may drive up to the main doors. Once you arrive, please ring the buzzer, We will have your child ready to meet you.

Important:

Children cannot be picked up from a bus line.

Please call in advance to tell us that you are picking your child up. If this is not possible, you will need to go to the main entrance and use the buzzer. Explain your situation, and Mrs. McGrath, office administrator or another staff member will radio someone to take your child off the bus.

STUDENT INFORMATION

VERIFICATION FORMS:

Please return by Friday, October 1st

These forms are being sent home with all students. Please ensure you update them with the most current information and then sign and date page two. **If you have a MyFamilyRoom Account and any of the Parent/Guardian information is incorrect on Page 2 , you may log into your MyFamilyRoom account and update the information (personal contact information e.g., address, phone number).** All other changes to information need to be updated on the form and returned to school. In a continued effort to support our families, and keep our students safe, we ask that you ensure the Living With and Custody are checked appropriately. They default to N (No); therefore, please check Y (Yes) if there are **no custody issues**. Otherwise, if one parent has custody please indicate Y (Yes) and the other does not please indicate N (No). Please contact Ms. Staples, to ensure we have the necessary paperwork on file for custody matters or if you have any questions. If custody information changes, please contact the office. Students who are learning remotely, will receive their verifications forms electronically.

Healthy Snack Program

We are offering healthy snack choices in the classrooms, for students who require them.

You must screen for your child for COVID-19 every day before going to school. You can use the online screening tool or download the paper version.

Key information

Local Public Health Units:

[Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit](https://www.healthunit.org): 1-866-236-0123

[Eastern Ontario Health Unit](https://www.healthunit.org): 1-800-267-7120 (press “5”)

COVID-19 School Online Screening Tool

Students and staff must screen for COVID-19 every day before going to school or child care. Parent(s)/guardian(s) can fill out the [school screening tool](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/) (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>) which is intended to be used by parents, students, employees and visitors. This tool provides guidance on whether or not it is advised to go to school or follow next steps. As of September 17th, updates were made to symptoms for people who are fully vaccinated or have tested positive in the last 90 days.

[Back to School/Child Care Confirmation Form](https://healthunit.org/wp-content/uploads/Back_to_School_Confirmation_Form.pdf) Link—https://healthunit.org/wp-content/uploads/Back_to_School_Confirmation_Form.pdf. This is a fillable form. It can also be downloaded and printed off. It must be completed and returned to school prior to returning to school if a student has been asked to stay home based on the instructions from the COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool or guidelines from our local Health Unit—Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.

Terry Fox Walk/Run

We will be participating in the annual Terry Fox Foundation National School Run Day on Wednesday, September 29th. Rain date of October 1st.

If families would like to donate, you are invited to send in a Toonie for Terry with your child or you can donate online at this link [Donations](https://terryfoxschoolrun.org/) or go to <https://terryfoxschoolrun.org/> and click on donate to a school.

Staff and students are invited to wear Falcon Colours (black, blue, yellow).

National Truth and Reconciliation Day—Orange Shirt Day

September 30th has been declared National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Orange Shirt Day annually to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. Please consider wearing Orange on Wednesday, September 30th to demonstrate your commitment to reconciliation, and opening and continuing the dialogue about residential schooling.

Classroom teachers have been provided with resources to support learning in the classroom.

Nut Aware Information:



Students and/or staff exposed to peanut butter or even the smallest amount of peanut, a peanut product or any type of nut may experience very strong reactions. They may experience any one of the following symptoms; face may swell, hives, swollen throat etc. Without immediate medical treatment, the student could go into shock within minutes and in some cases pass away. In response, the school has set-up protocol to address these types of immediate medical emergency situations.

All of our school staff have been made aware of these individual cases and have been instructed in the correct procedures for an immediate medical emergency response.

However, prevention is of course the best approach for reducing the risk of a severe reaction. We are seeking parent and student support in ensuring the safety of our students. At school, we have asked students not to share snacks, treats, or lunches. In addition, students have been asked to speak with an adult if they suspect there is a problem. **We are also asking that parent(s)/guardian(s) carefully monitor what is placed in lunches on a daily basis.** Therefore, we are requesting your cooperation in refraining from sending these food products that contain peanuts or other nuts to school with your child.

We understand that there are a number of different food products on the market that are alternatives to peanut butter, without the allergy concerns noted above. These products look, taste, and smell like peanut butter. These peanut butter substitute products can cause confusion and create an unsafe environment for our students and staff that are peanut anaphylactic. **Therefore, due to the difficulty in differentiating between peanut butter and a peanut butter substitute, we do not allow these products in our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Staples or Mr. Pratt.**

We thank you for your support in keeping our school environment safe for all.

Allergies to other Foods

All students are eating in their own classrooms this year. There are various allergies to other foods such as dill, oranges, dairy products, strawberries, cinnamon, etc. In order to ensure the safety of all of our students and staff with life-threatening allergies to various items, classroom teachers will communicate with the families in their classroom if there is a specific allergy. There is also a latex allergy at our school this year; therefore, we ask that balloons not be brought to school.

Thank you for helping us to keep all students and staff safe!

Bicycle Safety—Riding Bicycles, Scooters on School Property:

To support student safety, we ask that once students reach school property they **walk** their bicycles and/or scooters. It is very busy before and after school in parking lots, on the sidewalks, etc.

Children and Youth: By law every cyclist under the age of 18 must wear an approved helmet. Riders under 16 years old: a parent or guardian must make sure their child wears a helmet.

The Young Children's Guide can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/pdfs/young-cyclist-guide.pdf>

The guide has information on bicycle equipment, riding tips, and rules of the road.



WHAT IS “MY FAMILY ROOM”?

Designed for busy parents in a digital age, My Family Room is a secure website that acts as a one-stop, single point of access to all electronic services provided to parents and legal guardians of students in the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB).

Its focus is to enhance Board-Parent communication and provide 24/7 access to useful information related to your child. All parents and guardians with legal custody can register for a My Family Room account.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

With this service, you can:

- Receive phone calls, emails or text messages pertaining to your child, such as absence notifications, school emergencies, bus cancellations, and school events.
- Easily customize your contact preferences to receive emergency notifications to one destination (example: your mobile phone) while receiving non-urgent notifications to a different destination (example: your home phone or email address).
- View key contact information for your child’s school, such as phone numbers and email addresses for Principals, Vice-Principals, and office staff.
- View your child’s transportation, address, phone, absence, and health information.
- View your child’s school calendar online, including PD days, exam days and other calendar items entered by your child’s teachers and school staff.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

New parents are no longer required to contact a school to sign up for a My Family Room account! They now have the option of signing up for an account online. Parents can visit the myfamilyroom.ca and click on the “SIGN UP” button to get started.

You may continue to use your favourite social media account to login if you already have an account

After a new account is created, parents will have the option of “linking” their children that already attends a UCDSB school to their account so that they can view information related to their child and interact with the school that their child attends through the My Family Room service.

The Upper Canada District School Board is pleased to announce new updates to the My Family Room service that will make it easier for parents and guardians to interact with their child’s school.

MY FAMILY ROOM MOBILE APP! (FOR ANDROID AND IOS)

THE UPPER CANADA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A *NEW* MY FAMILY ROOM MOBILE APP (FOR ANDROID AND IOS) THAT WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO INTERACT WITH THEIR CHILD’S SCHOOL. [CLICK HERE](#) FOR A VIDEO OVERVIEW!

WITH THE NEW MY FAMILY ROOM APP, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

- REPLY TO NOTICES YOU RECEIVE IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR UNKNOWN REASONS
- SEND IN A NOTE IF YOUR CHILD IS RUNNING LATE FOR SCHOOL, OR FOR AN UPCOMING PLANNED ABSENCE

DOWNLOAD MY FAMILY ROOM APP FOR IOS AND ANDROID, RESPECTIVELY:



<https://apkpure.com/my-family-room-ucdsb/com.ucdsb.myfamilyroom>



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ucdsb.myfamilyroom&hl=en>

SUGGESTION BOX

Have a great idea for a new feature or function for My Family Room? Log into the My Family Room website and click on the “Suggestion Box” button. In the My Family Room Suggestion Box you can then let us know what new features you would like. You can also vote on previously submitted suggestions.

The suggestions will help determine what new features will be added to the My Family Room services.

SEND ABSENCE AND LATE NOTES ELECTRONICALLY

Parents now have the ability to send absence and late notes to your child’s school electronically in a few quick clicks. Note that this also works for future-dated absences, so if you’re planning that vacation getaway with your child, you can send in an absence notice ahead of time so that you don’t have to remember to do it later!

You now have the ability to respond to the absence notifications in the website or on the mobile app to provide a reason for your child’s absence. This will allow schools to track down unexplained student absences much faster, resulting in an increase to student safety.

FOLLOW US!

To stay up-to-date on My Family Room:

Duncan J. Schoular reduces, reuses, recycles:

We are also promoting litterless lunches. Thank you for sending your child’s lunch in reusable containers. You will notice that baggies are also coming home so that you can reuse them. We do recycle in the classrooms and lunchrooms.

If your child requires utensils for his/her lunch, **please ensure that they are included in his/her lunch bag for the day.** Utensils are not available at the school.

Students may bring a full water bottle to school each day. The water filling stations are open to refill during the day.

Thank you for your support with this environmentally conscious initiative.

Please contact
Mr. Pratt, Vice-
Principal if your
child has any al-
lergies and/or
medical needs.

If your child is absent,
please contact the school
prior to 9:20 a.m. (This in-
cludes walkers on snow
days.)

Phone: 613-283-1367

Text: 613-206-1443

Register through My Family
Room and input electronically

[https://myfamilyroom.ca/
Account/Login](https://myfamilyroom.ca/Account/Login)

School Council Meeting
Thurs., Oct., 7th, 6-7 p.m.

Virtual Teams Meeting

Nomination Forms (parent
nomination and self nomina-
tion) available on DJS web-
site and sent directly to
parent(s)/guardian(s) signed
up for myfamilyroom.

Terry Fox Run/Walk
**Wednesday, September
29th**

Rain Date—Friday, October 1st

There will be a staggered sched-
ule for participation throughout
the day to ensure students re-
main in their cohorts as well as
ensuring physical distancing is
respected.

National Day for Truth
and Reconciliation —
Orange Shirt Day
Thursday, September
30th