

Greenbriar Middle School

September-October 2020 Newsletter

Superintendent: Ms L. Cook
School Trustee: Ms C. Andrews
Office Assistant: Mrs. F. Lewis

Principal: Ms M. Mulhern
Vice-Principal: Mrs. C. Sciamanna
Office Manager: Mrs. P. Baird

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. As you know, this year has been a very challenging time for all stakeholders in our educational community and beyond. Who could have anticipated a world pandemic of this proportion? Life as we have known it has been disrupted in significant ways.



This year, as we have tried to navigate the new world of school, we have offered students online and face-to-face learning options. As a result, many changes are apparent within our bricks and mortar school. Apart from the safety measures that have been implemented, the obvious PPEs being worn, there are also fewer staff and students within the building. Online practices have changed as well. For example, much of the learning this year is “synchronous”. As such, online students are expected to be present and ready to learn in real time for a good portion of the day.

This year, students will receive Progress and Report Cards throughout the year. Despite the changes that have occurred as a result of COVID-19, much remains the same. At Greenbriar, we continue to be committed to fostering a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment where all students are valued. Our dedicated staff work very hard to meet the varying needs of all our Griffins. In a time where mental health is a priority, our learning community members go above and beyond to ensure that students feel safe and cared for. There is always someone available to speak to a student who needs an empathic ear.

Please plan to become involved with our virtual School Council this year. I hope that you will consider either joining or regularly attending our meetings. Your input and feedback on a variety of topics are important. Our virtual School Council meetings are as follows: **October 19th, 2020; December 14th, 2020; February 22nd, 2021; May 17th, 2021 at 4:30 pm.** Please e-mail us a Greenbriarsnr.ps@peelsb.com to confirm your attendance.

Education is a collaborative effort. I am eager to meet and get to know new parents and guardians and also to reconnect with families of students who have attended Greenbriar in the past. Our team very much values your partnership and support. I invite you to share in the open and ongoing communication between the school and home. Together, we can ensure that our students meet with much success.

Take care of yourselves. Be safe and be well.

Warmest Regards,

Ms. M. Mulhern

Covid-19 Guidelines

Visiting your child's school

To limit and track the number of visitors in our schools, only essential visitors will be permitted into schools. If families wish to speak to someone at the school, they are asked to do so by emailing or calling the school directly.

You may be required to make an appointment to visit the school based on the reason for your visit.

DO NOT require appointments	Require appointments
Family member or caregiver who is picking up a sick child or has another emergency. Only one adult per household should attend the school at once.	Family or caregiver who is meeting with school staff to discuss an issue with their child of a non-urgent nature. All meetings should take place virtually or by phone whenever possible.

Upon arriving at the school, visitors are required to:
Enter through the main entrance door using the buzzer or by phone

Wait in the established waiting area outside the main entrance

Sign in upon entry, and sign out when you leave

Physically distance as much as possible

Wear a mask/face covering

On-line Learning

NEW 2020 -2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Important information regarding student privacy and use of third party apps and web services

At the Peel District School Board, we are committed to helping each child achieve to the best of his or her ability. Using Modern Learning tools is an essential component of teaching and learning in today's world. Modern Learning tools can include Internet sites where users interact and collaborate in online environments, websites where users log in, and/or applications for tablets. The Peel board believes that these online services are key tools in aiding students and teachers in the development of 21st Century skills.

Please note: In order to support student privacy, Peel board students are encouraged to be mindful of how and when they use their school email (studentnumber@pdsb.net) to create accounts on any third party, non-protected domain, apps/web services.

The terms and conditions of these app/web-services may not align with the Peel board's Registering and Use of Software, Web-Based Services and Apps guidelines as their services may collect and display the student's private information, including the full name, publicly.

If your child uses their own personal accounts to access these apps/web services, please encourage them to use privacy settings to ensure that their account information, including full name, is not shared publicly.

Please visit www.bit.ly/byodparentresources for more information.

Peel Board News

How to register at a Peel school

Please, be aware that School Registrations will be done ELECTRONICALLY until further notice.
Please, call the school for details.

Who can attend?

The Peel board serves children age 4 and older.

Our schools

Peel has more than 253 elementary and secondary schools. You can find the name and location of your local school by calling our Planning and Accommodation department at 905-890-1010 or 1-800-668-1146, extension 2212.

If your family is **new to Canada**, your child may need a VIRTUAL orientation interview to register for school through one of the three Welcome Centres. Please call 905-366-8791 to talk to our staff and book your appointment. There is no fee for registration.

Documents required for registration

Proof of child's age (provide one) : Canadian birth certificate, Canadian passport, citizenship card/certificate, Permanent Resident Card, Record of Landing, confirmation of permanent residence, work permit, refugee permit

Proof of address (provide one) : purchase agreement, utility bill, bank statement/client slip (directly from financial institution) credit card statement, federal government forms (e.g. Social Insurance Number, Service Canada documents), Ontario driver's licence

Proof of custody – children must live with their parent(s) unless provided documentation supports an alternate living arrangement

Proof of immunization – proof that your child has been immunized/vaccinated. If you have questions, please call Peel Public Health Department at 905 799-7700

Peel board trustees - accountable to the community

The Peel board, like every public school board in Ontario, is governed by a board of trustees. Trustees are elected by public school taxpayers every four years during municipal elections. The next municipal election will be held in October 2018. The Peel board currently has 12 trustees representing three municipalities:

Trustee	Ward(s)	City	Email	Phone #
Carrie Andrews	7 and 8	Brampton	carrie.andrews@peelsb.com	647-473-1858

What do trustees do?

- advocate for the needs of the community
 - help members of the community address concerns about the school system
 - govern and set policies for the board
 - explain the policies and decisions of the board to the community
 - evaluate and review the board's achievement of its goals, objectives and strategic plan
 - participate in budget development, approve budget decisions and monitor its progress
- protect the future of the board by always considering the long-term effects of decisions. Visit www.peelschools.org and check out the 'Meet Your Trustee' section to subscribe to board meeting agendas and minutes and read highlights from board meeting.

Appreciation Days

Peel board recognizes Peel Principals and Vice-Principals' Day on Oct. 14

In 2018, the board of trustees declared the second Wednesday of October as Peel Principals and Vice-Principals' Day. This year, this date will be celebrated on Oct. 14. This day allows the community to recognize the important work of principals and vice-principals, and to acknowledge the lasting contributions that they make in the lives of students, families and community members. Take a moment to let your principal and vice-principal know they are truly appreciated.

Celebrate World Teachers' Day in Peel on Oct. 5

Since 1994, parents and students from around the world have celebrated World Teachers' Day to commemorate the work of teachers and their contributions to society. On Oct. 5, take the time to let your child's teacher know he or she is truly appreciated. Thank your child's teacher and let them know they are making a difference.

Celebrate Peel Teaching Assistant and Early Childhood Educators' Appreciation Day on Oct. 28

In 2014, the board of trustees declared the last Wednesday in October as the Peel Teaching Assistant and Early Childhood Educators' (ECE) Appreciation Day. This year, the recognition day falls on October 28, 2020. The Peel board appreciates the important work of teaching assistants and ECEs, and the contributions that they make in the lives of children, families and community members.

Student Safety

Protect your kids — and your finances

The Peel District School Board does *not* provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities including extracurricular sports. Each year, families could spend thousands of dollars when their children are injured at school, on field trips, while participating in non-school activities, or at home. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any medical costs not covered by provincial health care or their employer's health care plan.

The provincial health care system does *not* cover costs which are commonly related to accidents including dental work, ambulance fees, casts and crutches, and physiotherapy. All of these *are* covered by Insuremykids student accident insurance plan and as a convenience to parents, the Board has arranged to offer a plan to parents through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. To help protect your family, it is strongly recommended that you consider obtaining Insuremykids Protection Plan, which offers a variety of benefits at affordable prices, which provide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year coverage, range from \$13 to \$33 per year.

The insurance agreement is between **You** and **Reliable Life Insurance Company**.

You can apply for coverage online at www.insuremykids.com for answers to frequently asked questions.

Procedures help keep students safe at school

Student Safety

Dear Families,

Peel schools provide a safe environment for students and staff to learn and work. The board has many procedures to ensure safety including regular fire drills, evacuation plans, criminal record checks for new staff and volunteers, and lockdown, bomb threat protocol, hold and secure and shelter in place drills. Together with Peel Police, OPP and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board, the board developed procedures for critical situations.

In accordance with the Ministry of Education, the Peel board worked together with Peel Regional Police, Ontario Provincial Police and school boards in the Peel region to develop protocols for critical situations including bomb threats, lockdowns, hold and secure, shelter in place in order to help keep schools safe during a potentially serious or violent incident.

Every school will review the key points of the lockdown process with students. We rehearse the drill twice per year to make sure staff and students know what to do if we have to initiate a lockdown.

During the rehearsal, the principal will make an announcement to "initiate lockdown procedure." The school bell will ring continuously for a period of time and our goal is to make the school appear vacated.

Students and staff *inside* the school will:

go to the closest room, close the door and lock it, if possible
turn off the lights and lie down on the floor away from doors and windows
remain on the floor quietly until further directions are given

Students and staff *outside* the school will:

move as far away from the building as possible
remain outside until further directions are given

Depending on the situation, students and staff *outside* the building may be directed to an evacuation site. When the rehearsal is over, the principal will make another announcement.

Important things to note when an emergency occurs

Students and staff must not use cell phones

In these critical situations, safety is our number one priority. During rehearsals or in real critical situations, Peel Police have advised that cell phone usage can cause more safety risks and the following consequences:

- May cause signal delays for emergency services to attend to the situation.
- May prevent police from being able to communicate with each other and other important personnel in a timely manner.
- Public posts and messages may identify where individuals are in the building and pose a safety risk.
- May attract attention to the area of the school where the phone is being used.

Parents are requested to NOT call the school or your child's cell phone during emergency procedures.

Parents can get updates during emergency procedures on their school website

Parents are requested NOT to go to the school

In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown, hold and secure, shelter in place or bomb threat, police ask that parents do not go to the school. For safety reasons, you will not be allowed to enter a school that is in lockdown, hold and secure or shelter in place and students and staff cannot leave the school. In rare cases, police will designate a Parent Information Site for you to attend and get up-to-date, accurate information. **Please monitor your child's school website and do not come to the school unless requested to do so.**

If you have any questions about our lockdown drill, or any of the procedures we have in place to keep students and staff safe, please call the school.

PLEASE: subscribe online to receive email notifications for critical incidents (i.e., lockdowns)

Student Safety

Bomb Threat Protocol

Principals work with their staff to establish an agreed upon site specific bomb threat plan to be followed in the event of a bomb threat. The police will always be involved in the evaluation and response strategy to the receipt of a bomb threat.

Peel schools will rehearse drill for bomb threat or suspicious device/substance this fall.

Schools will review key points of the bomb threat process with students and will initiate a drill once per year, in the fall, to ensure that staff and students know what to do in the event of a real bomb threat or suspicious device/substance.

A "Communicate" message will be sent to families the day before the Bomb Threat Drill Rehearsal.

During the rehearsal, students *inside* the school will remain with or return to their supervising teacher immediately. Students are requested to turn off their cell phones during these emergency procedures. **Police have advised that cell phone usage can cause more safety risks and danger than benefits.**

Students and staff *outside* the school are requested to move as far away from the building as possible and remain outside until further directions are given and the rehearsal is complete.

The safety of our students is our top priority. Visit the "Safe Schools" page on the school website to learn more about the emergency procedures in place to keep students and staff safe. If you have any questions, please contact the school principal.

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Keeping lunches and snacks peanut-free

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that affects some children. We ask that you help us take care of these students by sending lunches and snacks for your child that are free from peanuts or nuts, because these foods are the leading cause of anaphylaxis.

Please read the label of any food you plan to send to school with your child. If the label says, "May contain nuts or peanuts," **please do not send it to school.**

Likewise, avoid sending "treats" to school to celebrate special occasions. Possible alternatives could be making a donation to our Library or our Breakfast Club.

Stay up-to-date with Greenbriar Middle School and Peel board news

Families encouraged to sign up for ParentConnect to access school alerts, report cards, busing info and more online

To help keep families connect to their children's education experience, we are encouraging all Peel District School Board parents/guardians to sign up for *ParentConnect*. *ParentConnect* is our online parent portal which provides parents/guardians with a single access point to stay informed, access services online and receive important information about your children.

ParentConnect allows parents/guardians to:

- view school based alerts and information
- access the parent/guardian view of *Brightspace* for *PDSB Online School*
- track real time absence reporting
- view current and historic elementary report cards for your child(ren)
- get up-to-date busing information
- review secondary school credit history and diploma status

To register and begin using ParentConnect, visit www.peelschools.org/parentconnect or click the ParentConnect button on your child's school website. Parents/guardians that have used ParentConnect in the past will continue to have access to your child(ren)s information. You do not need to register again.

The ParentConnect online portal can be accessed through any computer, smartphone Internet browser and/or tablets by visiting parent.peelschools.org. Families can also download the mobile app titled *Peel ParentConnect* through Google Play Store or Apple Store.

If you have any questions about ParentConnect, please call the school or visit the [ParentConnect FAQ page](#). If you encounter technical issues signing up for an account, please email ParentConnect@peelsb.com.

SchoolCashOnline

**Pay school fees
online using School
Cash Online—
register today!**

Our school offers School Cash Online, a safe and secure form of online payment, as its preferred method of payment for all school fees. With a parent-friendly portal and an easy way to keep track of your child's activity fees, you can use School Cash Online to pay for school items like field trips and pizza days directly from your computer or smartphone using eCheck, Visa or MasterCard.

For more information and to register, visit <https://peelschools.schoolcashonline.com>. If you have any questions, please contact the school directly.

Plans of Care for students with Medical Conditions in School

If your child has a medical condition (i.e., Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, etc.) and / or requires medication while at school, please:

- 1) complete the appropriate "Plan of Care" and Authorization for administration of medication forms found in the school's web page, under "Forms"
- 2) Submit the forms to school as soon as possible

If you have any questions, please contact the school's main office.

Regional Learning Choices Programs empower students to unlock their passions

Regional Learning Choices Programs offered by the Peel District School Board empower students by providing them with opportunities to develop and explore skills in a particular area of interest. Regional programs are open to all students who meet the criteria for acceptance. Students and families are encouraged to visit www.peelschools.org/regionalprograms to learn about the programs, application details and how supports are available to help families choose the program(s) of their choice.

Transportation is not provided for students in regional programs. If students have been accepted into a regional program and they live within the school boundary, they are only eligible for busing if they meet the distance criteria outlined in the board's *Transportation Policy #39*.

All regional programs include annual fees, including a non-refundable \$40 application fee, except the Regional Skilled Trades and Transportation Engineering and Technology programs, which are offered at no cost. Please note that supports are available for families who are interested in applying and may require financial assistance – please speak with your principal.

Important dates to note:

	Applications open	Applications close
ELEMENTARY	Jan. 25, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.	Feb. 8, 2021 at 3 p.m.
SECONDARY	Nov. 9, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.	Nov. 23, 2020 at 3 p.m.

Programs	Schools offered at	Starts in grade:		
		6	7	9
<u>Actively in Motion (AIM)</u>	Royal Orchard MS	✓		
<u>Advanced Placement</u>	Central Peel SS, John Fraser SS			✓
<u>Arts Elementary / Secondary</u>	Elementary: Earnscliffe Sr. PS (starts in grade 6), Queen Elizabeth Sr. PS (starts in grade 7) / Secondary: Cawthra Park SS, Mayfield SS	✓	✓	✓
<u>Arts and Technology</u>	Morning Star MS	✓		
<u>Graphic Design Management</u>	T.L. Kennedy SS			✓
<u>International Baccalaureate (IB) IB Elementary / IB Secondary</u>	Elementary: Bristol Rd. MS, WG Davis Sr. PS Secondary: Erindale SS, Glenforest SS, Harold M. Brathwaite SS, Turner Fenton SS	✓		✓
<u>International Business and Technology (IBT) IBT Elementary / IBT Secondary</u>	Elementary: Allan A. Martin Sr. PS, Lisgar MS, Williams Pkwy Sr. PS, Secondary: Meadowvale SS, North Park SS, T.L. Kennedy SS	✓		✓
<u>International and Executive Leadership Academy</u>	T.L. Kennedy SS			✓
<u>Regional Skilled Trades</u>	Judith Nyman SS, West Credit SS			✓
<u>SciTech Elementary / Secondary</u>	Elementary: Centennial Sr. PS, Macville PS, Tomken Rd. MS Secondary: Chinguacousy SS, Port Credit SS	✓		✓
<u>Sports</u>	Applewood Heights SS			✓
<u>Strings</u>	Central Peel SS, Port Credit SS			✓
<u>Transportation Engineering and Technology</u>	Bramalea SS			✓

For more information about program information nights, busing and the application process, visit www.peelschools.org/RegionalPrograms.

Jump start your future with Explore High Skills

Explore
**HIGH
SKILLS**

Explore High Skills is a Peel District School Board pathway program where Grade 9 and 10 students focus their learning on an area of interest as they build self-confidence, learn essential skills, and develop a sense of belonging in school and in the community. *Explore High Skills* is offered in secondary schools with Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs and provides students with engaging learning experiences as they transition to high school. These sector-related programs are available to students in all skill levels and in all pathways.

Explore High Skills students are provided:

Community Involvement Opportunities: students earn 20 of the 40 volunteer hours required for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) in Grades 9 and 10.

Certification and Training: students gain sector-recognized certifications recognized in the workplace (e.g., First aid/CPR, WHMIS).

Experiential Learning: students engage in innovative experiential learning and career exploration activities, giving them opportunities to explore, observe, participate in, and reflect on a variety of sector-specific experiences and careers.

To enroll in the *Explore High Skills* program, grade 8 students can indicate their interest when they are selecting high school courses in the Fall. For more information about the program, please contact your school, participating high school schools and visit www.peelschools.org/ExploreHighSkills.

Ready? Set? High school! Learn more about the opportunities available at your local Peel high school

Get ready for what could be the most exciting and important years your teen spends in school. For the first time, teens will have to make choices about what they will study and what career pathway to choose.

Learn about the Peel District School Board advantage and your local Peel board secondary school. To find out which secondary school your teen will attend, call 905-890-1010/1-800-668-1146 ext. 2212 or visit www.peelschools.org/findyourschool.

Contact your local secondary school to learn about the opportunities available for your teen and the programs offered at the school. Our *Welcome to High School parent guide* is also a great resource for parents to provide you with a snapshot of what you need to know to help your teen be successful.

Peel District School Board program offers flexible school options for student athletes, artists

Does your child/teen have an intense sports or arts training and competition schedule that makes it difficult to attend school regularly?

The Peel District School Board's *Peel Region High Performers Program* will offer flexible timetabling to accommodate student athletes and artists with demanding practice, competition, rehearsal and/or performance schedules.



**PEEL REGION HIGH
PERFORMERS PROGRAM**

Peel Region High Performers Program is offered at:

Britannia Public School (grades 4 to 5)

Dolphin Sr. Public School (grades 6 to 8)

Mississauga Secondary School (grades 9 to 12)

For more information, visit www.peelschools.org/HighPerformers or contact the school.

Transportation UPDATE^A

As per the Ministry of Education guidelines, transportation consortia were directed to limit capacity on school buses during the COVID-19 pandemic to minimize the spread of the virus. Recommendations to achieve this included suspending courtesy transportation. STOPR's priority is to ensure the health and safety on the school bus and we are unable to accommodate courtesy transportation with adding more students to the bus that could impact the health and safety of our current eligible riders and school bus drivers.

In consultation with Peel Public Health, given the growing number of COVID-19 cases, especially among students in our region, Peel Public Health does not recommend the size of the current bus transportation cohorts be increased. The smaller the bus transportation cohort, the lower the exposure risk for students who are eligible for transportation and school bus drivers.

STOPR continues to receive requests from parents asking for courtesy seating on our school buses for their children. Therefore, we would appreciate your support in reminding your school communities, whenever possible, that STOPR is not able to offer courtesy seating for the 2020 - 21 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are no exceptions, and this cannot be appealed. You can also direct parents to monitor our website at www.stopr.ca for any future updates on courtesy seating.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and if you have any questions please call or email me anytime.



Keep students safe in school parking lots

Many elementary schools offer a Kiss N' Ride program, where parents/guardians can drop off and pick up their children at a designated area on school property. The program was established to provide a convenient and safe option for our students and parents driving to school. To ensure the safety of staff and students, we ask all parents/guardians be mindful of the following guidelines:

There is no parking and no waiting in the Kiss and Ride lane. Pay attention to the traffic in front of you and pull forward as cars move forward. If you choose to park in the parking lot, please escort your child to or from the nearest foot patroller and use the main crosswalk.

Vehicles entering the Kiss N' Ride lane must stay in the designated lane, unless otherwise directed by a staff member or volunteer.

The Kiss N' Ride program is only available to students who are able to disembark independently.

Have your child ready to exit the car when you reach the curb. Students may only exit from the passenger (right) side of the vehicle.

After picking up or dropping off your child, leave promptly so that others can get in behind you.

If your child is not waiting for you at the main crosswalk at the end of the day, please circle the parking lot if permitted and rejoin the line or park in a designated parking space to wait.

Always respect traffic flow and abide all traffic laws and signs.

Ask your child's teacher or principal to learn more about our school's specific Kiss N' Ride procedures.

Safe Arrival System

Please continue to use the Safe Arrival system to report your child (ren)'s absences (**whether they are learning on-line or face to face**) quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

- 1) You can call into an automated, toll free number **1-855-209-6155**
- 2) Log into a website **pdsb.schoolconnects.com** to access SafeArrival /Parent Portal
- 3) You can download the Safe Arrival mobile application for Apple and Android devices

Permission to "go out for lunch"

In an effort to keep staff and students safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are asking parents and guardians to support our new LUNCH POLICY; we request that all students who attend Greenbriar MS, consistently bring a nutritious lunch to school and remain at school during the entire lunch break.

If there are extenuating circumstances that require your child to leave the school at lunchtime, please ensure that he/she goes directly home for lunch at **10:50 am each day and every day.**

We further ask that students return only a few minutes before the re-entry bell at the end of lunch, as he/she will not be permitted in the school until the bell rings at **11:50 am.**

Daily "notes" authorizing students to leave the school building at lunch will be accepted only in rare and exceptional circumstances.

We appreciate your support in assisting us in our efforts to ensure the safety of our students and staff during this pandemic.